



NEWS RELEASE

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News Release Contact:
Terry Bote, 303-894-2827

TASK FORCE ON TRANSMISSION SITING AND PERMITTING ISSUES REPORT TO GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE

DENVER – The Task Force on Statewide Transmission Siting and Permitting today issued its report to the governor and legislature in compliance with Senate Bill 11-045. The report does not recommend establishment of a statewide transmission siting authority in Colorado at this time, but offers three recommendations for improving existing siting and permitting processes.

The task force consisted of 17 appointed members, including representatives from electric utilities and power providers, consumers, agricultural interests, landowners and state and local governments. The task force conducted four public meetings, during which it received testimony and presentations from experts on various transmission issues. Significant public comment, both written and oral, also was received. In addition to two meetings in Denver, meetings were held in Burlington and Pueblo, to accommodate statewide public interest in transmission issues.

Senate Bill 11-045 required the task force to examine the advantages and disadvantages of a statewide transmission siting and permitting framework for electric transmission facilities. The task force was directed to issue a report and recommendations by Dec. 1.

The report includes the following recommendations:

- The task force supports increased cooperation and collaboration among local governments that review transmission applications in Colorado. Therefore, Colorado Counties Inc. (CCI), the Colorado Municipal League (CML), and transmission owners and operators agree to meet and develop proposed improvements to the siting and permitting review process for multi-jurisdictional projects, and report the results to the PUC.
- When local government land-use decisions on utility projects are appealed to the PUC, and the PUC's decision is subsequently appealed, cases should go directly to the Colorado Court of Appeals, rather than to a district court. Task force members agree that this change in the appellate review process will foster a more efficient and timely judicial review.
- The task force supports establishment of processes and provision of resources to resolve transmission siting and permitting disputes between local governments and transmission operators. The task force recommends that the PUC open an investigatory docket to consider various issues, including:
 - Best practices for transmission permitting and siting;
 - Best practices for providing advisory services to the PUC when local government land-use decisions on utility projects are appealed to the Commission; and
 - Whether a transmission permitting and siting resource center for the benefit of local governments, transmission operators, the public, and the PUC would be helpful.

A copy of the task force's full report can be viewed from the PUC website at <http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/index.htm#>.

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