

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUIRY)
INTO ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY) DOCKET NO. 96Q-313E
RESTRUCTURING.)

NOTICE OF INQUIRY

Mailed Date: July 3, 1996
Adopted Date: June 26, 1996

I. BY THE COMMISSION:

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") hereby gives notice of an inquiry into issues related to the restructuring of the electric utility industry. The purpose of this inquiry is to solicit information from interested persons concerning the appropriate competitive and regulatory framework for Colorado's electric utility industry.

II. BACKGROUND:

Various federal and state initiatives to promote greater competition are significantly altering the traditional structure of the electric utility industry on both the wholesale and retail levels. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission efforts to promote wholesale generation competition may provide the impetus for the creation of highly competitive regional markets for wholesale power. Regulatory initiatives in states such as California, Wisconsin, and New York may create equally fundamental changes in the provision of the electric power to retail customers. The

State of Colorado is not isolated from these initiatives given the inter-connected nature of our national electric transmission system. Indeed, the development of competitive regional power markets will no doubt have significant ramifications not only for our electric utilities and their customers, but on Colorado's long-term economic viability and environmental quality as well.

III. PROCESS:

1. The Commission seeks to obtain information concerning electric utility industry restructuring from the most diverse group of interested persons as is possible. To this end, the Commission shall issue a comprehensive questionnaire designed to solicit responses to a wide variety of electric utility industry restructuring issues. Given the potential impact restructuring may have on the State of Colorado and the entire western United States, it is the Commission's hope that persons who do not traditionally participate in electric utility proceedings before this body will respond to this questionnaire. For example, the Commission seeks input not only from our jurisdictional electric utilities but from our state's many rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities as well. Likewise, the Commission will also seek to solicit responses from interested persons throughout the entire western region.

2. The Commission does not propose to hold hearings during this inquiry. Instead, the above referenced questionnaire shall

be mailed by the Commission on or before September 3, 1996. Responses to this questionnaire shall be filed with the Commission no later than October 15, 1996. These responses shall be compiled by the Staff of the Commission and incorporated into a formal report. This report shall be presented to the Colorado General Assembly on or before December 1, 1996, for consideration during the 1997 legislative session. Copies of this report shall also be made available to members of the public. Interested persons may submit suggestions concerning proposed questions to be included in the questionnaire no later than August 10, 1996. These suggestions will be considered by Staff when formulating the questionnaire.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. This inquiry into electric utility industry restructuring is formally opened.

2. The Commission shall mail a questionnaire to interested persons on or before September 3, 1996. Responses shall be filed with the Commission no later than October 15, 1996.

3. Suggestions concerning proposed questions to be included in the questionnaire may be submitted no later than August 3, 1996.

4. The Commission shall present a formal report concerning electric utility industry restructuring to the Colorado

General Assembly and members of the public on or before
December 1, 1996.

5. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

B. ADOPTED IN OPEN MEETING on June 26, 1996.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER VINCENT MAJKOWSKI
ABSENT.

JW:srs