

Decision No. C23-0156-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22A-0515E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS COST RECOVERY PROPOSAL ASSOCIATED WITH THE EARLY RETIREMENTS OF COAL GENERATION ASSETS CRAIG 2, HAYDEN 1, AND HAYDEN 2, AND THE RETIRING COAL PORTION OF PAWNEE.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION SCHEDULING
REMOTE PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

Mailed Date: March 2, 2023
Adopted Date: March 1, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By this Decision, the Commission schedules a remote public comment hearing soliciting additional public feedback regarding the Application that Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) filed on November 16, 2022, for approval of its cost recovery proposal associated with the early retirements of coal generation assets Craig 2, Hayden 1 and Hayden 2, and the retiring coal portion of Pawnee.

B. Discussion

2. Public Service's Application in this Proceeding stems from the Commission's Phase I Decision (Decision No. C22-0459) in Proceeding No. 21A-0141E, addressing Public Service's 2021 Electric Resource Plan (ERP) and Clean Energy Plan (CEP). In Decision No. C22-0459, we directed Public Service to file an application initiating a new adjudicated proceeding that

comprehensively looks at the coal plant cost recovery issues surrounding Craig, Hayden 1 and 2, and Pawnee.¹

3. In this Proceeding, Public Service seeks approval to recover the outstanding net book value (NBV) and decommissioning costs associated with Craig 2, Hayden 1, Hayden 2, and Pawnee through a regulatory asset for each plant established upon its retirement. While the Company has changed its position in Rebuttal testimony,² in its Direct testimony Public Service estimated that the present value revenue requirement of its preferred approach amounts to roughly \$513 million.³

4. In Decision No. C22-0812-I, issued December 15, 2022, the Commission established the parties to this Proceeding,⁴ and scheduled an evidentiary hearing for March 20, 2023, through March 22, 2023. We further reserved an alternative hearing date for April 6 through April 7, 2023.⁵

5. Given the significant costs at issue in this Proceeding and the fact that the Commission has already received several written comments, we will schedule a remote public comment hearing soliciting more public feedback. The remote public comment hearing will take place on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, and will run from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission. The public comment hearing will be held using the web-hosted video

¹ Proceeding No. 21A-0141E, Decision No. C22-0459, ¶ 65.

² HE 105 (Ihle Rebuttal), pp. 4-5.

³ HE 102, (Watson Direct), p. 21.

⁴ The parties consist of the following: Public Service, Staff of the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of Utility Consumer Advocate, Climax Molybdenum Company (Climax), Colorado Energy Consumers (CEC), and the Natural Resources Defense Council and Sierra Club (collectively the Conservation Coalition).

⁵ Decision No. C22-0812-I, pp. 21-22.

conferencing service, Zoom. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearing in-person.

6. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearing, such as the sign-up sheet, and all relevant information on how to log on to the remote public comment hearing will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>.

7. A court reporter will live transcribe the public comment hearing to create a written record of the comments received. Commenters should give their full name, and spell it, before they give their comments. In general, commenters will be called to speak in the order in which they sign up. The presiding officer may adopt procedures and time limits for comments as necessary to ensure that all members of the public have opportunity to comment, and the transcribed record is clear and understandable. Typical time limits range from one to three minutes for each commenter. To ensure the hearing time is used efficiently, commenters are requested to avoid repetitive comments that re-state filed written comments or repeat oral comments already provided at hearing. As discussed below, written public comment can be filed at any time in the proceeding and will be afforded the same weight as oral comments. Finally, the purpose of a public comment hearing is to provide opportunity for members of the public to provide oral comments. To that end, parties to the Proceeding and their representatives are not permitted to present comments. Individuals may present comments on their own behalf.

8. The Commission will publicize the remote public comment hearing by press release, announce it on the Commission's public calendar, and make it known by other avenues to the extent resources are available.

9. The remote public comment hearing will be webcast on the Commission's website. This means that those persons wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearing may do so by watching the webcast. To observe the public comment hearing, enter this link in the web browser <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts> and select the audio or video option for Hearing Room B. The Commission encourages interested persons who do not wish to provide comments at the remote public comment hearing to observe it through the webcast rather than Zoom. Doing so will help minimize background noise during the hearing and may assist in the orderly progression of the hearing.

10. We remind the public that participating in the public comment hearing is not the only way to provide comments in this Proceeding. We encourage interested persons to provide written or oral public comments at any time this Proceeding is open. Public comments can be provided by:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission's Electronic Filing System (E-Filings) at <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>.
- Submitting written comments using the Commission's online form or through email at dora_puc_website@state.co.us. These comments will be posted in E-Filings for this Proceeding.
- Mailing comments to the Commission's offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202.
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (English and Spanish options).

Please include "Proceeding No. 22A-0515E" in public comments.

11. Finally, the Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings and meetings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Requests for such

accommodations should be made at least one week prior to the event by completing the [Language Access Form](#). Requests can also be made directly by contacting Holly Bise at (303) 894-2024 or by emailing holly.bise@state.co.us.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. In accordance with the above, a remote public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: March 21, 2023

TIME: 4:00 p.m. through 5:30 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission

PLACE: By video conference using Zoom.

2. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 1, 2023.**

(S E A L)

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners

G. Harris Adams,
Interim Director