

Decision No. R23-0703-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23M-0464EG

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF ASPECTS OF SENATE BILL 23-291 INCLUDING ITS CONSIDERATION OF CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS TO AND DISCONNECTIONS FROM INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITY SYSTEMS AND THE STUDY OF POTENTIAL BARRIERS TO BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTED ENERGY RESOURCES.

**INTERIM DECISION OF HEARING COMMISSIONER
MEGAN M. GILMAN
GRANTING SECOND MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME
TO PROVIDE RESPONSES TO INITIAL QUESTIONS**

Mailed Date: October 16, 2023

I. STATEMENT, FINDINGS, AND CONCLUSIONS

1. By Decision No. C23-0627, issued September 18, 2023, the Commission opened this Proceeding to implement certain provisions in Senate Bill 23-291 related to customer connections to and disconnections from investor-owned electric and gas utility systems and designated Commissioner Megan M. Gilman as Hearing Commissioner pursuant to § 40-6-101(2), C.R.S. By Decision No. R23-0636-I, issued September 20, 2023, the Hearing Commissioner set forth initial questions for answers from Colorado's two investor-owned electric utilities, namely, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) and Black Hills Colorado Electric, Inc. (Black Hills). By Decision No. R23-0669-I, issued October 4, 2023, the Hearing Commissioner granted the request of Public Service and Black Hills to extend the deadline for responses to the questions set forth in Decision No. R23-0636-I to October 13, 2023.

2. On October 12, 2023, Public Service and Black Hills filed a second joint motion requesting the Hearing Commissioner grant the two utilities additional time to provide responses to the questions set forth in Decision No. R23-0636-I. Specifically, they request an extension of three business days from the prior deadline of October 13, 2023, to October 18, 2023, to respond to the questions.

3. In support of the motion, Public Service and Black Hills state that development of their responses has continued to be time and resource intensive, further complicated by the limited availability of certain key employees that are also responsible for directly implementing and administering the processes addressed in the series of questions. The utilities state they understand and appreciate the importance of this matter and the need to receive the requested information and that they apologize for any inconvenience this extension may cause. They state they look forward to cooperatively collaborating with the Hearing Commissioner and other interested stakeholders on these important issues.

4. The Hearing Commissioner reluctantly finds good cause to grant the additional requested extension. The new deadline for responses to the questions set forth in Decision No. R23-0636-I is **October 18, 2023**. However, the Hearing Commissioner strongly urges the utilities to avoid causing further delays in this Proceeding that may impede the Commission's ability to timely complete its study of these important issues. The Commission is under a statutory deadline to complete a study from Senate Bill 23-291. It is crucial to our progress that the utilities provide timely responses to utility questions, both those that have already been posed as well as additional questions likely to come in this Proceeding, as we progress our understanding of practices and policies that are currently related to the ability to deploy beneficial electrification and distributed energy resources in order to fulfill our statutory obligations.

5. In order to take up this motion expeditiously and provide timely relief, the Hearing Commissioner waives the remaining response time to the motion.

II. ORDER

A. **It Is Ordered That:**

1. The Second Joint Motion to Request Additional Time to Provide Responses to Attachment A – Initial Questions For Investor-Owned Electric Utilities For Study Pursuant to § 40-3.2-104.6, C.R.S., filed on October 12, 2023, by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) and Black Hills Colorado Electric, Inc. (Black Hills), is granted.

2. Response time to the motion is waived.

3. Consistent with the discussion above, Public Service and Black Hills shall file responses to the questions included in Attachment A to Decision No. R23-0636-I no later than **October 18, 2023**.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Hearing Commissioner

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director