

Decision No. R24-0102-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
SCHEDULING WORKSHOP ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024**

Mailed Date: February 15, 2024

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.

2. In accordance with Decision No. R23-0636-I, issued September 20, 2023, the Hearing Commissioner conducted a public comment hearing on October 4, 2023 to receive accounts from prospective and existing utility customers, builders and housing developers, local government officials, and utility representatives regarding electric utility policies and practices related to requests for new or upgraded electric service, including the costs and timing of system upgrades for necessary system interconnection.

3. By Decision No. R23-0874-I, issued December 29, 2023, the Hearing Commissioner scheduled two workshops to further examine issues raised at the October 4, 2023 public comment hearing related to requests for new service or service upgrades within the electric service area of Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) that does business as Xcel Energy. The first workshop was conducted on Monday, February 5, 2024, with a focus on potential ways to improve the service request process and communications used by Public Service throughout its electric service area. This workshop was intended to involve interested representatives from developers, builders, municipalities, and others interested in the interconnection process for new loads, as well as representatives from Public Service. The second workshop was on Monday, February 12, 2024, during which the Hearing Commissioner examined the capacity constraints on the utility's electric system that are presenting issues to customers, builders, and developers seeking new service or service upgrades with representatives from Public Service familiar with the system constraints and planning.

4. By this Decision, the Hearing Commissioner schedules a third workshop on Thursday, February 22, 2024, to further examine the related processes and allocation of costs associated with distribution system upgrades. Participants in the workshop will have an opportunity to discuss their experiences with system analysis conducted by Public Service when reviewing applications for new or upgraded electrical service or for the connection of new distributed energy resources (DERs), as well as the methodology, transparency, and issues around cost allocation of grid upgrades. Additionally, Public Service should be prepared to discuss the internal and external-facing processes involved with the analysis and cost allocation of grid upgrades, as well as some of the history of the processes and limits around what dictates how cost allocation is determined. Then, participants will have an opportunity to discuss any improvements

to these processes and allocation practices to promote fairness, efficiency, and achievement of state policy goals, including suggestions for improvement or examples of processes used elsewhere which may provide improvements.

5. The workshop will be conducted using the web platform Zoom. Those interested in participating in the workshop must register in advance using the link posted on the Commission's calendar of events for the date and time of the hearing at: <https://puc.colorado.gov/pucalendar>. Registrants will receive an email with the link, meeting ID code, passcode, and call-in information to join the Zoom session.

6. The workshop is scheduled to commence at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude no later than 5:00 p.m.

7. Consistent with Commission practice, the workshop will be webcast on the Commission's website. Persons wishing to observe, but not participate in the workshop may do so by observing the webcast on the PUC YouTube Channel at puc.colorado.gov/webcasts.

II. ORDER

A. **It Is Ordered That:**

1. Consistent with the discussion above, a workshop addressing the processes and allocation of costs associated with distribution system upgrades throughout the electric service area of Public Service Company of Colorado is scheduled as follows:

DATE: February 22, 2024

TIMES: 1:00 p.m., continuing until concluded, but no later than 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: By video conference or telephone using the Zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the workshop.

2. All those who wish to participate in the February 22, 2024 workshop must register by clicking on the link available on the Commission’s calendar of events on its website for the date and time(s) of the hearing at puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar.

3. Those wishing to observe but not participate in the above February 22, 2024 workshop may do so by observing the Commission’s webcast of the workshop on the PUC YouTube Channel at: puc.colorado.gov/webcasts.

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 black ink that reads 'Rebecca E. White'.

Rebecca E. White,
Director