Decision No. C25-0772-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0220G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2025-2030 GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN, CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR FACILITIES, AND NON-PIPELINE ALTERNATIVES ("NPA") COST RECOVERY STRUCTURE.

INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING MOTION AND SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS AND DENYING MOTION FOR LATE INTERVENTION

> Issued Date: October 27, 2025 Adopted Date: October 22, 2025

I. <u>BY THE COMMISSION</u>

A. Statement

- 1. On May 23, 2025, Public Service Company of Colorado ("Public Service" or the "Company") filed an Application requesting that the Commission approve its 2025-2030 Gas Infrastructure Plan ("GIP"). Public Service made the filing consistent with provisions in the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-4-4550 to 4555, that require the filing of gas infrastructure plans as part of the Commission's updated regulatory framework for gas utilities.
- 2. By its Application, Public Service requests that the Commission approve its GIP and grant a presumption of prudence for the "Planned Projects" in the GIP as well as the associated cost estimates. Public Service further seeks a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for

the Louisville to Rollins Pass Project and the Speer Canal Interconnects Project. The Company seeks further approval of its proposed non-pipeline alternative project cost recovery structure.

- 3. On October 2, 2025, Colorado Communities for Climate Action on behalf of Natural Resources Defense Council, Rewiring America, Sierra Club, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, and Western Resource Advocates, and the Colorado Renewable Energy Society, and the Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado ("Joint Movants") filed a Motion for Two Public Comment Hearings ("Public Comment Motion").
- 4. On October 9, 2025, GreenLatinos filed a motion for late intervention by permission ("GreenLatinos Motion").

By this Decision, in accordance with Rule 4552(b)(III), the Commission grants the Public Comment Motion and schedules remote public comment hearings for November 18, 2025, and January 20, 2026, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on both days. We also deny the GreenLatinos Motion, consistent with the discussion below.

B. Discussion, Findings, and Conclusions

1. Public Comment Motion

- 5. In Decision C25-0658-I, the Commission established a procedural schedule for this Proceeding, including a remote evidentiary hearing *en banc* for the days of January 16 and January 20-23, 2026. However, the Commission did not set a time for a hearing to solicit public comment.
- 6. In the Public Comment Motion, the Joint Movants request that the Commission schedule two public comment hearings in this Proceeding. The Joint Movants assert that the Public Comment Motion is unopposed by the other parties to the Proceeding.
- 7. The Joint Movants request that the Commission schedule the first public comment hearing mid-November, preferably the week of November 17 through 21, so as to allow the public

to comment on direct and answer testimony, and the second public comment hearing in January 2026 ahead of or as part of the evidentiary hearing so as to allow the public to comment on rebuttal testimony. They request that at least one public comment hearing be scheduled outside of work hours to encourage as much public participation as possible, and state they are comfortable with a virtual or hybrid option.

- 8. We find good cause to grant the unopposed Public Comment Motion. We agree that public comment hearings would be helpful in this Proceeding and that the Joint Movants outline a reasonable approach. Further, Rule 4552(b)(III) requires the Commission to establish procedures for the Proceeding that shall include one or more public comment hearings. In accordance with this requirement and the Public Comment Motion, the Commission will hold public comment hearings in this Proceeding on November 18, 2025, and on January 20, 2026, from 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm on both days. The public comment hearings will be held using the web-based video conferencing Zoom platform. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearings in-person.
- 9. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearings, such as relevant information on how to log on to the remote public comment hearings will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar.
- 10. When providing public comments, 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. Typically, commenters are requested to limit comments to around three minutes, depending on the total expected participation. 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. 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.

- 11. Interested persons who do not wish to provide comments but wish to observe can review virtual public comment in hearings on the Commission's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/
- 12. Participating in a 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. Please include "Proceeding No. 25A-0220G" in public comments. 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).
- 13. 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 <u>Language Access Form</u>.

2. GreenLatinos Motion

- 14. On October 9, 2025, GreenLatinos filed a motion for late intervention in this Proceeding. GreenLatinos is a national nonprofit organization that convenes a broad coalition of Latino leaders committed to addressing environmental, natural resources, and conservation issues that significantly affect the health and welfare of the Latino community. GreenLatinos has members throughout Colorado who are Public Service customers. GreenLatinos has intervened and actively participated in other PUC proceedings, including the inaugural Transportation Electrification Plan proceedings for Public Service and Black Hills Energy, the 2024 Just Transition Solicitation, and the 2025-2026 Renewable Energy Plan.
- 15. GreenLatinos "respectfully submits that good cause exists for its late intervention. GreenLatinos was not aware of this proceeding until recently. During the relevant period, GreenLatinos experienced significant staff transitions, including the Colorado State Director being on sabbatical abroad and other Colorado-based staff being reassigned to national priorities in Washington, D.C. As of September 1, 2025, GreenLatinos has hired new personnel, and the Colorado State Director returned on September 20, 2025. Upon becoming aware of this proceeding, GreenLatinos acted promptly to seek intervention. GreenLatinos' delay was due to extraordinary administrative circumstances rather than a lack of diligence, and it has since taken immediate steps to ensure continued participation."
- 16. GreenLatinos provides a statement from Public Service in which it states its opposition to late intervention: "Public Service is opposed to the late intervention. GreenLatinos may submit public comments to advocate for its policy positions in this proceeding. The intervention request is late by approximately three months, and good cause has not been shown to grant the late intervention. There are a robust set of parties in this proceeding.

Additionally, granting the late intervention at this stage of the proceeding would be prejudicial, unduly broaden issues, and increase costs."

17. Pursuant to Commission Rule 1401(a), the Commission "may, for good cause shown, allow late intervention, subject to reasonable procedural requirements." Here we find that GreenLatinos has not demonstrated good cause to allow late intervention. With answer testimony due in less than two weeks (November 3, 2025), we are concerned that GreenLatinos' late intervention would unduly burden or prejudice the established parties to the Proceeding. The remaining timeframe leaves very little room for discovery and preparation for answer testimony. We encourage GreenLatinos to provide written or oral public comments in this Proceeding.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

- 1. The Joint Motion for Two Public Comment Hearings, filed on October 2, 2025, by Colorado Communities for Climate Action on behalf of Natural Resources Defense Council, Rewiring America, Sierra Club, the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, and Western Resource Advocates, and the Colorado Renewable Energy Society and the Physicians for Social Responsibility Colorado, is granted, consistent with the discussion above.
- 2. The Motion filed by GreenLatinos on October 9, 2025, for late intervention by permission is denied, consistent with the discussion above.

3. Remote Public Comment Hearings are scheduled as follows:

DATES: November 18, 2025, and January 20, 2026

TIME: 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: By video conference: using the Zoom web conferencing platform

at a link in the calendar of events on the Commission's website, available at https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar. Available for

viewing at:

https://www.youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/

4. This Decision is effective immediately upon its Issued Date.

B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING OCTOBER 22, 2025.

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THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners

COMMISSIONER MEGAN M. GILMAN ABSENT

Rebecca E. White, Director