

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24R-0559EG

IN THE MATTER OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION’S RULES REGULATING ELECTRIC UTILITIES, 4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-3, AND ITS RULES REGULATING GAS UTILITIES, 4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-4, TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN PROVISIONS FROM SENATE BILL 23-292 REGARDING BEST VALUE EMPLOYMENT METRICS AND ENERGY SECTOR PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.

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

Issued Date: June 10, 2025

I. STATEMENT

A. Background

1. On December 24, 2024, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission initiated this proceeding by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) to amend the Rules Regulating Electric Utilities consistent with Senate Bill 23-292.¹ The NOPR referred the proceeding to an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”). The proceeding was subsequently assigned to the undersigned ALJ.

2. Atmos Energy Corporation (“Atmos”), Colorado Natural Gas, Inc. (“CNG”), Interwest Energy Alliance (“Interwest”), Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service”), The Rocky Mountain Environmental Labor Coalition, the Colorado Building and Construction Trades Council, and AFL-CIO (the “Labor Coalition”), Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Inc. (“Tri-State”) filed initial comments. Black Hills Colorado Electric, Inc. and

¹ Decision No. C24-0940.

Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., collectively doing business as Black Hills Energy, the Colorado Solar and Storage Association and the Solar Energy Industries Association, the Labor Coalition, Public Service, and Tri-State filed reply comments.

3. On March 4, 2025, the ALJ held the public comment hearing noticed in the NOPR. During the remote public comment hearing, the ALJ discussed the proposed rules and the initial and response comments with the participants at the hearing. In addition, Public Service and the Labor Coalition committed to work collaboratively to reach consensus and/or identify areas of disagreement regarding the proposed rules. Public Service and the Labor Coalition welcomed any other participant to participate in this stakeholder process. At the conclusion of the remote public comment hearing, the ALJ continued the remote public comment hearing to May 20, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. and established a deadline of April 4, 2025 for Public Service and the Labor Coalition to file a Report of their efforts with a bluelined version of the rules showing their proposed changes to the proposed rules, and deadlines of April 23, 2025 for participants to file initial comments and May 7, 2025 for reply comments regarding the additional proposed changes in the Report.

4. On March 5, 2025, the ALJ issued Decision No. R25-0157-I that memorialized the continued schedule established at the March 4, 2025 remote public comment hearing.

5. On April 1, 2025, and April 18, 2025, Public Service filed Reports stating that the participants were working through the process of building consensus regarding changes to the proposed rules.

6. On April 21, 2025, Public Service filed a Third Status Report including proposed bluelined changes to the proposed electric and gas rules. As to the electric rules, the Third Status Report stated that Atmos and CNG take no position on the proposed changes, COSSA and SEIA

provided no indication about whether they support, oppose, or take no position on those changes, and the rest of the participants support the proposed changes. As to the blue-lined proposed changes to the gas rules, the Third Status Report stated that Interwest and Tri-State take no position on the proposed changes, COSSA and SEIA provided no indication about whether they support, oppose, or take no position those proposed changes, and the remainder of the participants support the proposed changes.

7. On May 20, 2025, the continued remote public comment hearing took place.

B. Continued Remote Public Comment Hearing

8. During the remote public comment hearing on May 20, 2025, the undersigned ALJ took further public comment from the participants and announced the continuation of the hearing. This Interim Decision memorializes the continuance of the remote public comment hearing to August 19, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. for the reasons stated on the record on May 20, 2025.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The remote public comment hearing is continued as follows:

DATE: August 19, 2025

TIME: 11:00 a.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/>.

2. Nobody should attend the continued remote public comment hearing in person.

3. At the time set for the continued remote hearing, interested persons may submit written comments and may present these orally unless the Administrative Law Judge deems oral comments unnecessary.

4. Interested persons may also submit written comments in this matter by filing them directly in this proceeding using the Commission's e-filing system, including them in an email sent to the Commission, or by entering them through the Commission's website by clicking on the "FILE A COMMENT OR COMPLAINT" link on the Commission's home page and then following the prompts. The Commission's e-filing system, email address, and "FILE A COMMENT OR COMPLAINT" link can be found at <https://puc.colorado.gov/>.

5. Interested persons may also submit oral comments in this matter, either in English or in Spanish, by calling (303) 869-3490 and leaving a voicemail containing the comments.

6. Regardless of which of the above methods is used for submitting comments in this Proceeding (24R-0559EG), the Proceeding number should be identified in comments submitted to aid the Commission's administrative staff in placing the comments in this proceeding.

7. The Commission will equally consider all submitted comments, whether oral or written.

8. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

CONOR F. FARLEY

Administrative Law Judge