

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

DOCKET NO. 03A-068E

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THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (CPCN) FOR THE STEAMBOAT LOOPED 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE, OR FOR A FORMAL DETERMINATION THAT NO CPCN IS REQUIRED.

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**COMMISSION ORDER GRANTING A CERTIFICATE OF  
PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE  
STEAMBOAT LOOPED 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE**

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Mailed Date: April 3, 2003

Adopted Date: April 2, 2003

**I. BY THE COMMISSION:**

**A. Statements**

1. On February 20, 2003, Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo) filed an application pursuant to § 40-5-101, C.R.S., and Rule 55 of the *Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado* (Commission), Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1. In this application, PSCo requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to construct the Steamboat Looped 230kV Transmission Project (Steamboat Project or Project), or for a formal determination that no CPCN is required.

2. PSCo is an electric utility operating pursuant to authority issued by the Commission within its authorized service territory in the State of Colorado. PSCo is regulated by the Commission with respect to its rates for services and facilities provided to its customers.

3. The proposed Steamboat Project consists of a new 230kV line that will electrically parallel and be constructed adjacent to PSCo's existing 230kV line from Wolcott Tap to

Steamboat Substation. Steamboat Substation is a source of power to about 12,000 customers in Steamboat Springs and the surrounding area. This area is served by Yampa Valley Electric Association, a wholesale electric customer of PSCo. Steamboat Substation is sourced by a 230kV line from PSCo's Hayden-Wolcott 230kV line and a 69kV line from Mt. Harris Substation. During high demand periods, with an outage of the 230kV line, the remaining 69kV line does not have the sufficient capacity to deliver all the load requirements of the customers in the Steamboat Springs area. The proposed 230kV line will provide the needed backup for the existing 230kV line while providing for load growth in the area into the future. This Project also moves the Wolcott Tap further south where it can be easily accessed for maintenance type situations, especially during inclement weather conditions.

4. The recommended Steamboat Project is one of three alternatives studied that is considered the superior alternative. It will cost approximately \$10.9 million to construct with an in-service date of September 1, 2004.

**B. Findings of Fact**

5. No interventions to this application have been filed.
6. The application complies with the requirements of Rule 18 and Rule 55.
7. The application is deemed complete.

**C. Conclusions**

8. The application is of state interest and good cause exists for granting PSCo's request for a CPCN.

**II. ORDER**

**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. The application is deemed complete.
2. A certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Steamboat Looped 230kV Transmission Line as requested by Public Service Company of Colorado is granted.
3. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
April 2, 2003.**

(SEAL)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners

CHAIRMAN GREGORY E. SOPKIN  
RECUSED HIMSELF.