

Decision No. C22-0699-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22A-0315EG

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS COMBINED ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT AND BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION PLAN FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2023.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION SCHEDULING
PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS**

Mailed Date: November 8, 2022

Adopted Date: November 2, 2022

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By this Decision, the Commission schedules two public comment hearings on the Application requesting Commission approval of Public Service Company of Colorado's (Public Service or Company) 2023 Electric and Natural Gas Demand-Side Management (DSM) and Beneficial Electrification (BE) Plan (2023 DSM & BE Plan or Plan), filed on July 1, 2022.

B. Discussion

2. On July 1, 2022, Public Service filed its Application and Direct Testimony requesting Commission approval of the Company's 2023 Electric and Natural Gas Demand-Side Management (DSM) and Beneficial Electrification (BE) Plan (2023 DSM & BE Plan or Plan). Public Service states, while the Company first introduced its existing BE offerings as part of its 2021-22 DSM Plan, this filing is the Company's first DSM Plan to incorporate the new BE Plan elements required by Senate Bill 21-246, effective September 7, 2021.

3. On September 8, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0530-I which, among other matters, set a prehearing conference to address procedural matters and directed the Company to confer with intervenors in advance of the prehearing conference regarding a schedule for this Proceeding. The Commission directed the Company to file a proposed procedural schedule, including provisions for discovery and for the filing of supplemental direct testimony as identified in Paragraph 47 of Decision No. C22-0530-I.

4. On September 9, 2022, in accordance with Decision No. C22-0530-I, the Company filed the Joint Motion on behalf of itself and the Parties to this Proceeding. Public Service filed a consensus procedural schedule and provisions for discovery, and also requested that the Commission waive response time to the Joint Motion and vacate the prehearing conference if the proposed schedule was satisfactory. Public Service states that no party opposes the relief sought in the Joint Motion, including the request to waive response time.

5. In Decision C22-0547, issued September 15, 2022 we adopted, with modifications, the consensus procedural schedule.

6. We note that Senate Bill 21-272 (SB-272) recognized that certain Colorado communities have historically been forced to bear a disproportionate burden of adverse human health and environmental effects. SB 21-272 also identifies “lack of public participation” as a factor that impacts the health and environment of a community¹.

7. Given the importance of this Proceeding on retail customer programs, and in anticipation of the evidentiary hearing beginning on February 15, 2023, we find it appropriate to

¹ Interested persons may participate in the Commission’s pre-rulemaking process regarding Senate Bill 21-272 implementation. Visit puc.colorado.gov/equity for more information.

schedule both an in-person public comment hearing and a remote public comment hearing². The in-person public comment hearing will take place on January 18, 2023. The in-person public comment hearing will run from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission.

8. Members of the public will not be permitted to call in or otherwise participate remotely at the in-person public comment hearing. Depending on our availability, however, one or more Commissioners may attend the in-person public comment hearing remotely³.

9. In addition, we will set a remote public comment hearing for January 18, 2023. This remote public comment hearing will run from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission. The January 18, 2023 hearing will be held using the web-hosted video conferencing service, Zoom. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearing in-person.

10. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearings, such as sign-up sheets, and all relevant information on how to log on to the remote public comment hearing will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar> closer to the hearing dates.

11. The public comment hearings will be transcribed live by a court reporter to create a written record of the comments received. 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

² On October 14, 2022, the Colorado Energy Office filed a motion requesting the Commission schedule a public comment hearing. Given this decision we view the relief requested in the motion as moot.

³ Commission is continuing to develop its procedures and resources to allow for a hybrid in-person and virtual hearing and will issue a separate order modifying the scheduled in-person hearing if it is able to convert the in-person hearing to a hybrid format.

transcribed record is clear and understandable. Typical time limits range from one to three minutes for each commenter. 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. As discussed below, written public comment can be filed at any time in the proceeding and will be afforded the same weight as oral comments. 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.

12. The Commission will publicize the public comment hearings by press release, announce them on its public calendar, and make them known by other avenues to the extent resources are available.

13. The in-person public comment hearing as well as the remote public comment hearing will both be webcast on the Commission's website. This means that those persons wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearings may do so by watching the webcast. To observe a public comment hearing, enter this link in the web browser <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts> and select the audio or video option for Hearing Room A. The Commission encourages interested persons who do not wish to provide comments at the remote public comment hearing to observe it through the webcast rather than Zoom. Doing so will help minimize background noise during the hearing and may assist in the orderly progression of the hearing.

14. We remind the public that participating in the public comment hearings 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. 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). Please include “Proceeding No. 22A-0315EG” in public comments.

15. 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 Language Access Form. Requests can also be made directly by contacting Holly Bise at (303)894-2024 or by emailing holly.bise@state.co.us. Simultaneous Spanish interpreting will be provided during the in-person public comment hearing on January 18, 2023.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. In accordance with the above, an in-person public comment hearing is scheduled follows:

DATE: January 18, 2023

TIME: 4:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission

PLACE: Colorado Public Utilities Commission
Hearing Room A
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, CO 80202

2. Simultaneous Spanish interpreting will be provided during the in-person public comment hearing on January 18, 2023

3. In accordance with the above, a remote public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: January 18, 2023

TIME: 12:00 p.m. through 1:00 p.m., or until concluded by the Commission

PLACE: By video conference using Zoom.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 2, 2022.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

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Commissioners