

Decision No. C22-0700-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22A-0309EG

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC ISSUES RELATING TO ITS ELECTRIC AND GAS DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT AND BENEFICIAL ELECTRIFICATION PLAN.

**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) Demand Side Management and Beneficial Electrification Strategic Issues Application (Application), filed on July 1, 2022.

B. Discussion

2. On July 1, 2022, Public Service filed its Demand Side Management and Beneficial Electrification Strategic Issues Application. Public Service states this will be the fifth proceeding where the Commission, the Company, and interested parties have opportunity to examine the larger policy issues that will help shape the Company's next DSM Plan. Public Service states, however, this Strategic Issues proceeding will differ from prior cases because it also includes BE. Public Service states, at this point, a combined filing reduces the burden for parties, allows for a more

holistic consideration of DSM, including issues that impact both the Company's natural gas and electric utility services, and is consistent with the allowance in recent Senate Bill 21-246, effective September 7, 2021, codified at § 40-3.2-109(6)(b), C.R.S., for combined BE and DSM Strategic Issues filings.

3. On September 6, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0515-I that deemed the Application complete, set the matter for hearing before the Commission en banc, granted requests for intervention, and instructed the established parties to file a proposed procedural schedule by September 9, 2022, prior to a prehearing conference scheduled through the order for September 16, 2022.

4. On September 9, 2022, the Company filed a notice stating that prior to committing to a procedural schedule, it needed to better understand the scope of the Commission's requested Supplemental Direct Testimony.

5. On September 16, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0548-I that vacated the September 16, 2022 prehearing conference and directed Public Service to file Supplemental Direct Testimony on certain issues identified Paragraph 11 of the decision. Decision No. C22-0548-I also ordered the Company to confer with the parties to develop a proposed procedural schedule to file no later than September 20, 2022, and scheduled a remote prehearing conference for September 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

6. On September 20, 2022, Public Service filed the consensus Response, stating the Company had convened discussions among the parties and worked through proposed filing deadlines and discovery procedures.

7. In Decision C22-0547, issued September 28, 2022 we adopted the consensus procedural schedule.

8. 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.

9. Given the importance of this Proceeding on retail customer programs, and in anticipation of the evidentiary hearing beginning on February 6, 2023, we find it appropriate to 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.

10. 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.

11. In addition, we will set a remote public comment hearing for January 18, 2023. This remote public comment hearing will also 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

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.

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.

conferencing service, Zoom. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearing in-person.

12. 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.

13. 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 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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-0309EG" in public comments.

17. 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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dean".

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners