

Decision No. R22-0696-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22A-0189E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR ITS FIRST DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLAN WHICH INCLUDES A MODEL NON-WIRES ALTERNATIVE SERVICES AGREEMENT AND A MODEL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.

**INTERIM DECISION OF HEARING COMMISSIONER
MEGAN GILMAN SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT
HEARING**

Adopted Date: November 8, 2022

I. STATEMENT

A. Background

1. By this Decision, I schedule a public comment hearing on the Verified Application for Approval of its Distribution System Plan (DSP) (Application) that, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed on May 2, 2022.

B. Discussion

2. The Application was deemed complete on June 17, 2022, by operation of the Commission's rules under § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.

3. On June 15, 2022, the Commission issued Decision No. C22-0379-I referred the Application for hearing before Commissioner Megan Gilman. The decision also established the parties to this matter and set forth certain questions that it requests Public Service to address in the form of supplemental direct testimony in this Proceeding.

4. On July 19, 2022, Public Service filed a notice of a Suggested Unopposed Procedural Schedule and Discovery Procedures. The Hearing Commissioner adopts the Parties' discovery procedure proposal. The Commission's discovery rules and procedures will apply to discovery in this proceeding with the modification that responses to discovery on rebuttal and cross-answer testimonies will be due within 5 business days.

5. In Decision No. R22-0474-I, issued August 10, 2022, adopted a proposed procedural schedule.

6. I 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. The Commission has not yet initiated a rulemaking to implement Senate Bill 21-272, however, the Company considers disproportionately impacted communities in its selection of Non-Wires Alternatives.

7. Given the importance of this Proceeding on retail customer programs, and in anticipation of the evidentiary hearing beginning on December 5, 2022, I find it appropriate to schedule a remote public comment hearing at two different times². The public comment hearing will take place on December 1, 2022. The remote public comment hearing will run from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., and from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or until concluded.

8. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearing, such as sign-up sheets, and all relevant information on how to log on to the remote public comment

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 I view the relief requested in the motion as moot.

hearing will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar> closer to the hearing dates.

9. 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.

10. The Commission will publicize the public comment hearing by press release, announcement on its public calendar, and make it known by other avenues to the extent resources are available.

11. The remote public comment hearing will be webcast on the Commission's website. This means that those persons wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearing 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.

12. 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-0198E” in public comments.

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 [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.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

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

DATE: December 1, 2022

TIME: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m..

WEBCAST: Commission Hearing Room B

METHOD: Join by video conference using Zoom at the link to be provided in an email from an Administrative Hearings Legal Assistant.³

2. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Hearing Commissioner

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Doug Dean,
Director

³ Additional information about the Zoom platform and how to use the platform are available at: <https://zoom.us/>. All are strongly encouraged to participate in a test meeting prior to the scheduled hearing. See <https://zoom.us/test>.