

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

STATE OF COLORADO

Case No. 09A-324E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF TRI-STATE GENERATION AND TRANSMISSION ASSOCIATION, INC., (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY-CALUMET-COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO, (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE SAN LUIS VALLEY TO CALUMET TO COMANCHE TRANSMISSION PROJECT, (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO EMF AND NOISE, AND (C) FOR APPROVAL OF OWNERSHIP INTEREST TRANSFER AS NEEDED WHEN PROJECT IS COMPLETED.

**ANSWER TESTIMONY OF MOREY WOLFSON ON BEHALF OF THE
GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE**

1 **Q: Would you please state your name and position?**

2 A: My name is Morey Wolfson. I am the Transmission Program Manager at the
3 Colorado Governor's Energy Office ("the GEO").

4 **Q: What is the purpose of your answer testimony in this docket?**

5 A: My purpose is to present GEO's position on the applications by Tri-State
6 Generation and Transmission Association ("Tri-State") and Public Service
7 Company of Colorado ("PSCo") or ("the Applicants") for a Certificate of Public
8 Convenience Necessity ("CPCN") for the San Luis Valley-Calumet-Comanche
9 Transmission Project ("the Project").

1 **Q: What is GEO’s position on the application by Tri-State and PSCo for a**
2 **CPCN for the Project?**

3 A: GEO supports the applications of Tri-State and PSCo.

4 **Q: Can you describe the basis for your support?**

5 A: Two guiding principles form the basis for GEO’s policy position in support of the
6 Applications for a CPCN for this Project: Governor Bill Ritter’s New Energy
7 Economy and the Governor’s Climate Action Plan.

8 **Q: Can you briefly describe Governor Ritter’s New Energy Economy?**

9 A: The Governor's New Energy Economy has been formulated to lead Colorado
10 forward by establishing the state as a national and international leader in the
11 production and manufacturing of clean energy technologies. The New Energy
12 Economy is working to secure Colorado’s energy, economic and environmental
13 future. Governor Ritter's focus has led to a doubling of Colorado's renewable
14 energy requirement and to the creation of Colorado's first Climate Action Plan.
15 The Governor recognizes that Colorado is uniquely positioned for advancing
16 renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development at the state's
17 national labs and universities. Colorado is poised to leverage these institutions
18 along with the state's rich renewable resources, to bring clean energy and good
19 jobs statewide. A major feature of the New Energy Economy is to seize the
20 economic development and job growth opportunities stemming from the
21 construction of clean energy infrastructure development in Colorado.

22 **Q. What is the GEO’s role in the New Energy Economy?**

1 A: The GEO has been denominated by the Governor to take a leadership role in
2 advancing the New Energy Economy.

3 **Q: Can you describe how the goals of the New Energy Economy would be met**
4 **by granting the utilities' application for a CPCN for this Project?**

5 A: This is best answered by quoting Governor Ritter, who addressed approximately
6 600 people at the Third Annual New Energy Economy Conference on October 20,
7 2009: "We are working on a tremendous energy challenge facing us today:
8 transmission -- a way to move electrons from clean energy sources to where
9 they're in greatest demand. In Colorado -- indeed in much of the country -- many
10 of our best renewable energy sources are a long way from the places that require
11 the most electricity. We need a new effort at collaboration to ensure wind power
12 on the Eastern Plains and solar power in the San Luis Valley can travel to the load
13 centers of the Front Range. We must work more closely together and plan with
14 greater foresight to ensure needed transmission for utility-scale renewable power.
15 We must be open to more regional and state-to-state cooperation, and consider
16 new approaches for how transmission is built, and how we pay for it."

17 **Q: Can you summarize Governor Ritter's Climate Action Plan?**

18 A: Governor Ritter issued his Climate Action Plan ("CAP") in November, 2007. In
19 that report, the Governor stated that "Global warming is our generation's greatest
20 environmental challenge. The scientific evidence that human activities are the
21 principal cause of a warming planet is clear, and we will see the effects here in
22 Colorado. But the seeds of change are also here in Colorado, in our scientific and
23 business communities, and in each of us individually. This Colorado Climate

1 Action Plan is a call to action. It sets out measures that we in our state can adopt
2 to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by 20 percent by 2020, and makes a
3 shared commitment with other states and nations to even deeper emissions cuts by
4 2050. Why is this important? For Colorado, global warming will mean warmer
5 summers and less winter snowpack. The ski season will be weeks shorter, and
6 forest fires will be more common and more intense. Water quality could decline,
7 and the demand for both agricultural and municipal water will increase even as
8 water supplies dwindle.”

9 **Q: Can you state the relevance of the Climate Action Plan to this docket?**

10 A: The CAP stated: “In 2005, total emissions from the utility sector amounted to 36
11 percent of CO2 emissions in Colorado. Clearly, the state cannot do its part in
12 addressing the problem of climate change unless we work with utilities large and
13 small to reduce their CO2 emissions.” Colorado’s electricity sector has the
14 opportunity to address the challenge of reducing carbon dioxide emissions
15 through a variety of demand-side and supply-side measures. Colorado’s electric
16 utilities can play a constructive part to address the scale of the climate change
17 challenge by responding at scale by connecting large blocks of utility-scale
18 renewable energy generation to an expanded high-voltage transmission system.
19 The Applicants proposed transmission project represents a key segment of what
20 Colorado can do to help meet the CAP carbon dioxide reduction goals.

21 **Q: Can you describe the work of the Senate Bill 2007-91 Renewable Resource**
22 **Generation Development Areas Task Force?**

1 A: Senate Bill 2007-91 created a Renewable Resource Generation Development
2 Areas Task Force to identify Renewable Resource Generation Development
3 Areas (GDAs). The Task Force prepared a report entitled “Connecting
4 Colorado’s Renewable Resources to the Markets,” also known as “the SB07-91
5 Report.” The report provided the Governor, the General Assembly, and the
6 people of Colorado with an assessment of the capability of Colorado’s utility-
7 scale renewable resources to contribute electric power in the state from ten
8 Colorado Generation Development Areas (GDAs). These GDAs have the
9 capacity for over 96,000 megawatts (MW) of wind generation and 26,000 MW of
10 solar generation.

11 **Q: Can you describe the relevance of the SB07-91 Report to this docket?**

12 A: The SB07-91 Report provided detailed information on Colorado’s utility-scale
13 wind and concentrating solar power (CSP) resource areas. Page 63 of the report
14 contains supply curves for the two concentrating solar power GDAs. An analysis
15 conducted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the report identified
16 a technical potential of 240,000 MW for prime-location CSP in the San Luis
17 Valley. The report found that the San Luis Valley contains 2,400 potential sites
18 for a 100 MW CSP plant. Approval of the Applicants’ request for a CPCN for
19 this Project would set the stage for the pathway to deliver a small fraction of this
20 vast potential solar resource to the grid.

21 **Q: Can you describe GEO’s analysis regarding utility-scale renewable energy**
22 **development and high-voltage transmission infrastructure?**

1 A: GEO has been conducting a research project to study how to advance the
2 opportunities for developing more utility-scale renewable energy and high-voltage
3 transmission infrastructure in Colorado. The research is entitled the REDI Project
4 - Renewable Energy Development Infrastructure. Governor Ritter referenced this
5 research at the Third Annual New Energy Economy Conference. After
6 mentioning the need for transmission, the Governor said: “To this point, my
7 energy office is releasing an important report: the Renewable Energy
8 Development Infrastructure, or REDI, Report. The report -- the result of a
9 partnership with the DOE -- discusses in great detail the need for transmission in
10 our New Energy Economy, the challenges we face and suggestions on how to
11 move the effort forward.”

12 **Q: What findings of the REDI Project are relevant to this docket?**

13 A. Two primary REDI Project findings relate to this docket. The first finding is that
14 Colorado needs to greatly increase investment in utility-scale wind and solar
15 generation. The second finding is that Colorado must accelerate construction of
16 high-voltage electric power transmission to bring renewable energy from
17 renewable resource-rich areas in rural Colorado to the state’s major load centers.

18 **Q: How important is this CPCN application in preparing a pathway to meet the**
19 **goals of the New Energy Economy and the Climate Action Plan?**

20 A: GEO views the outcome of this docket as setting an important precedent
21 regarding how Colorado will proceed with development of utility-scale renewable
22 energy and construction of high-voltage transmission infrastructure. The
23 Applicants, in coordination with other Colorado utilities have developed plans, in

1 part through the Colorado Coordinated Planning Group process, and in the case of
2 PSCo, through the SB07-100 process, to construct additional high-voltage
3 transmission infrastructure to connect Colorado's renewable resource GDAs to
4 the grid. The GEO encourages the Commission to issue a timely approval of the
5 Applicants' request for a CPCN. Approval of the CPCN will signal the
6 Commission's pursuit of the inter-related economic development objectives of the
7 New Energy Economy and the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of the
8 Climate Action Plan.

9 **Q: What specific benefits does GEO believe will stem from this Project?**

10 A: GEO recognizes that should the Commission approve the Applicant's request for
11 a CPCN, and should the Project receive the necessary siting permits, the result
12 would meet several broad public policy objectives. The Project would
13 simultaneously alleviate transmission constraints, connect approximately 1,500
14 MW of new generation, and allow the opportunity for future expansion.

15 **Q: Does the GEO have a position regarding the determination of the public**
16 **convenience and necessity for this Project?**

17 A: Yes. The GEO's position is that this Project will advance the public's
18 convenience and necessity. The basis for this position is evident as we consider
19 (a) the historic trend line for electric load growth in Colorado, (b) the expectation
20 that Colorado's population is continually growing, (c) the recognition of the need
21 to combat climate change with zero or low-carbon electric generation and
22 transmission infrastructure at scale, and (d) the demonstrable public and policy
23 support for integrating more renewable energy on to the grid.

1 **Q: Does the GEO have a position relative to the siting of this line?**

2 A: No. The GEO recognizes that there are several options regarding siting of this
3 Project. The key step at this juncture to advance this Project is the approval of the
4 CPCN application.

5 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

6 A: Yes it does.