

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14M-0235E

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION CONSIDERATION OF RETAIL RENEWABLE
DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND NET METERING.

**INTERIM DECISION SETTING DATE FOR PANEL
DISCUSSION AND ISSUING QUESTIONS**

Mailed Date: September 2, 2014
Adopted Date: August 20, 2014

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I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By Decision No. C14-0615-I, issued June 9, 2014, the Commission concluded that it should gather information on topics related to on-site solar and net metering. We determined that a series of panel discussions with stakeholders would be an effective way to gather information.

2. The Commission held its first panel session on July 24, 2014. Panelists included representatives from Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) and the on-site solar industry. Discussion focused on issues related to the growth of on-site solar in Colorado and the costs of net metering. In addition, Mr. Kent Singer, representing the Colorado Rural Electric Association, spoke about how Colorado's rural electric cooperatives are addressing on-site generation.

3. At the Commissioners' Weekly Meeting on August 20, 2014, we discussed holding a second panel discussion on October 1, 2014. In preparation for this discussion, we provide questions for the panelists in Attachment A to this Decision. In addition, we have additional questions for Public Service and the representatives of the on-site solar industry related to the first July 24 Panel Discussion.

B. July 24 Panel Discussion

4. At the July 24 panel discussion, we said that we may seek additional information or clarification from the panel presenters.

5. Additional information will be useful and we direct Public Service and the panelists or other representatives of the on-site solar community to address two issues. Responses should be filed no later than September 24, 2014, and may be filed with the responses to the other questions requested in Attachment A. Our questions are as follows:

- a) For Public Service, please provide detailed information and an explanation of the derivation of the installed on-site solar capacity in Scenarios 2 and 3 as presented at the July 24 Panel Discussion. Please also explain whether those same factors and assumptions are held in Scenario 1.
- b) For both Public Service and the on-site solar community: Is the range of costs for residential net metering, as generally defined by the panelists, presently between \$7 million and \$16 million per year? What factors are included in that calculation and what factors would result in a higher rather than lower cost within that range?

C. October 1 Panel Discussion

6. The October 1 panel discussion should be centered on the benefits of on-site solar. If the projected growth of residential on-site solar put forward by Public Service at the July 24 session is accurate, we need to understand how this level of growth might affect the benefits as well as the impact of that level of solar on the grid.

7. We are also interested in detailed and quantified information about the current benefits of on-site residential solar to customers (net metered and non-net metered) and to the utilities, including how the value of those benefits are calculated today.

8. We need to understand the interdependency of the grid for net metered and non-net metered customers. We expect panel participants to quantify the value (or values) as part of their analysis.

9. Consistent with the approach set forth in Decision No. C14-0615-I, the October 1 panel will likely have four to six participants, including at least one panelist representing the electric utilities and at least one panelist representing the local on-site solar industry. Persons seeking to participate as a panelist must file a request to participate no later than September 11, 2014, as described in Decision No. C14-0615-I. The Commission will publish the list of panelists after that date.

10. In addition, the filing of written responses to the questions in Attachment A will result in a more effective exchange among the panelists and the Commissioners. Panelists are directed to file written responses to the questions, including any presentations they intend to make at the October 1 Panel Discussion, no later than September 24, 2014.

D. Public Comment

11. The issues under investigation in this proceeding arose in the context of Public Service’s application for approval of its 2014 Renewable Energy Standard Compliance Plan, which is currently before the Commission in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E. By Decision No. C14-0219-I, issued February 27, 2014, the Commission severed net metering issues from that proceeding.

12. The Commission has continued to receive public comments in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E related to net metering. In addition, the Commission held a public comment hearing on February 3, 2014, as part of that proceeding. Nearly all of the comments made at that hearing were related to net metering issues.

13. To supplement the information we are collecting in this proceeding, we direct Commission Staff to ensure that public comments collected in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E are catalogued into this proceeding within the Commission’s E-Filings system.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. A Panel Discussion is scheduled as follows:

DATE: October 1, 2014

TIME: 1:00 p.m. until not later than 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Commission Hearing Room
1560 Broadway, 2nd Floor
Denver, Colorado

2. Consistent with the discussion above, interested persons seeking to participate in the October 1 Panel Discussion shall file a request with the Commission as described in

Decision No. C14-0615-I. Requests to participate shall be filed no later than September 11, 2014.

3. Persons participating in the panel shall submit written answers to the questions set forth in Attachment A to this Decision and any presentations they intend to use no later than September 24, 2014.

4. Consistent with the discussion above, we request Public Service Company of Colorado and a representative from the on-site solar industry to file responses to the questions related to the July 24 Panel Discussion no later than September 24, 2014.

5. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
August 20, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners