

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-1002E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO (A) FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE THORNTON SUBSTATION, AND (B) FOR SPECIFIC FINDINGS WITH RESPECT TO MAGNETIC FIELDS AND NOISE.

**INTERIM DECISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
PAUL C. GOMEZ
CONDITIONALLY ADOPTING
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Mailed Date: December 8, 2014

I. STATEMENT

A. Background

1. On October 3, 2014, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the Thornton Substation, and for Specific Findings with Respect to Magnetic Fields and Noise (Application). Public Service seeks to construct the Thornton Substation Project (Project) which involves the installation of a new substation in an area in which Public Service believes is the preferred siting area in the City of Thornton, Colorado (Thornton).

2. In addition to requesting approval for the CPCN, Public Service also seeks approval of certain noise and magnetic field levels the Company estimates will result from operating the Project.

3. Concomitant with the Application, Public Service filed the direct testimony and exhibits of Kelly Bloch, Chad Nickell, and John Lupo.

4. On October 6, 2014, the Commission issued notice of the Application to all interested parties. The notice set a 30-day period in which to file a petition to intervene in the Application proceeding, or no later than November 5, 2014.

5. On November 12, 2014, the Commission deemed the Application complete and referred the matter to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) for disposition. The matter was subsequently assigned to the undersigned ALJ.

6. The Thornton and the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) are intervenors in this proceeding.

7. By Interim Decision No. R14-1387-I, issued November 18, 2014, a pre-hearing conference was scheduled for December 3, 2014.

8. At the scheduled date and time the pre-hearing conference was held. Appearances were entered by Public Service, Thornton, and the OCC.

9. The parties presented a proposed procedural schedule and discovery procedures. The proposed procedural schedule anticipates a Commission Decision would be necessary by April 1, 2015 in order to allow Public Service sufficient time to order the equipment necessary for the substation project should the CPCN application be approved.

10. The proposed schedule is as follows:

Intervenor's Answer Testimony due.....	January 14, 2015
Rebuttal/Cross-Answer Testimony due	February 6, 2015
Deadline to file Settlement Agreement and for Filing Corrected Testimony	February 10, 2015
Evidentiary Hearing.....	February 17-18, 2015
Statements of Position due.....	February 27, 2015
Commission Decision	April 1, 2015

11. Public Service stated that given the truncated timeline to issue a Decision in this matter, it intends to file a motion with the Commission seeking an Initial Commission Decision, which will reduce a portion of the procedural timeline in order to assist in meeting its proposed April 1, 2015 target date for a final Commission Decision.

12. Good cause is found to adopt the procedural schedule proposed by the parties in part. It is noted that a hearing room is not available on February 18. Therefore, the hearing dates will be scheduled for February 19 and 20, 2015.

13. However, adoption of the procedural schedule will be contingent on the Commission's grant of Public Service's motion for an Initial Commission Decision. In the event the Commission denies such a motion, a second pre-hearing conference will be held to establish a procedural schedule based on the issuance of a Recommended Decision.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The procedural schedule set out above in Paragraph No. 10 is adopted contingent on Commission approval of a motion by Public Service Company of Colorado for an Initial Commission Decision in this proceeding.

2. An evidentiary hearing will be contingently set as follows:

DATES: February 19 and 20, 2015
TIME: 9:00 a.m. each day
PLACE: Hearing Room
Colorado Public Utilities Commission
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado

3. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PAUL C. GOMEZ

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Doug Dean,
Director