

Decision No. R20-0625-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20A-0082E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE HIGH POINT SUBSTATION PROJECT.

**INTERIM DECISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
ROBERT I. GARVEY
CONVERTING IN-PERSON HEARING
INTO REMOTE HEARING AND PROVIDING
INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING REMOTELY**

Mailed Date: August 26, 2020

I. STATEMENT

1. On March 2, 2020, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed its Verified Application for approval of the High Point Distribution 230/13.8 kV, 50 Mega Volt Ampere Substation Project, which includes approximately 3.5 miles of new 230 kV double-circuit transmission line that will tap into the existing 5277 Spruce-Green Valley 230 kV transmission line. Public Service also requests that, in granting this certificate of public convenience and necessity, the Commission make specific findings with respect to the reasonableness of the noise and magnetic field levels that result from operating the Project.

2. On April 2, 2020, the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) filed its Notice of Intervention of Right, Entry of Appearance, and Request for Hearing. The OCC is an intervenor as of right and a party in this proceeding. The OCC listed a series of issues they wish to investigate.

3. On April 6, 2020, Trial Staff of the Commission (Staff) timely filed its Notice of Intervention as of Right, Entry of Appearance, Notice Pursuant to Rule 1007(a) and Rule 1403(b), and Request for Hearing. The intervention is of right, and Staff is a party in this matter.

4. On April 15, 2020, by minute order, Proceeding No. 20A-0082E was referred to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).

A. Impact of Subsequent Developments on Hearings

5. On March 10, 2020, Colorado Governor Jared Polis declared a state of emergency over the novel coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Since then, Colorado State government and the Commission have been working diligently to address how to safely and effectively manage the challenges presented by COVID-19. These efforts have focused on limiting the disruption to the services delivered by the Commission (and other State agencies), while attempting to mitigate the risks to State employees and the public. For example, the Commission has been conducting its Weekly Meetings remotely, and the Commission has asked members of the public not to attend meetings in person, but to view them by webcast. Finally, public access to the building containing the Commission's offices and hearing rooms has been restricted and it is unclear when the restriction will be lifted.

6. Under these circumstances, the hearing scheduled for September 3 and 4, 2020 shall be converted into a remote hearing in which the participants will appear from remote locations, as provided below. The ALJ finds that holding a remote hearing is consistent with current public health advisories to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The ALJ concludes that it is in the parties' and the public interest to hold the hearing in this proceeding as a remote hearing.

B. Instructions for Participating in Remote Hearing

7. Attachment A to this Decision provides the requirements and information addressing how to use the GoToMeeting platform for participating in the hearing.

8. Parties must follow the procedures for exhibits contained in Attachment B to this Decision.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The hearing scheduled for September 3 and 4, 2020 shall be converted into a remote hearing. The parties and witnesses of the public must follow the instructions stated above and the information that will be provided by the Administrative Law Judge by email to the parties and their counsel. The parties, witnesses, and members of the public should not attend the remote hearing in-person.

2. Instructions on participation in the remote hearing are contained in Attachments A and B to this Decision.

3. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ROBERT I. GARVEY

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Doug Dean,
Director