

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 19M-0670E

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF § 40-2-132, C.R.S.,
RELATING TO DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM PLANNING.

**DECISION OF HEARING COMMISSIONER
JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN
CLOSING PROCEEDING IN ANTICIPATION OF
FORTHCOMING RULEMAKING**

Mailed Date: October 1, 2020

I. STATEMENT

1. On December 3, 2019 by Decision No. C19-0957, the Commission opened this Proceeding to collect comments and other information relating to developing rules governing the filing of Distribution System Plans (DSPs) by Colorado electric utilities. In Decision No. C19-0957, the Commission asked that I work with the Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, stakeholders, and other interested participants to collect and organize information, conduct public comment hearings, and make recommendations to the full Commission as to possible next steps in promulgating rules as required by § 40-2-132, C.R.S.

2. Many stakeholders filed initial comments, reply comments, and a number of stakeholders filed draft DSP rules. I scheduled two workshops and requested supplemental filings from the utilities. Later, I requested a final round of comments based upon the two workshops as well as responses to the draft rules submitted by various stakeholders. The participation in this process was robust. As a result, the record in this proceeding now extends to thousands of pages and contains a wealth of information on distribution system planning.

A. Discussion

3. At the outset of this proceeding I noted that the purpose was to gather information and start a discussion on distribution system planning prior to the Commission's issuance of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking as required by § 40-2-132, C.R.S. The various comments, draft rules, and workshops helped to inform the Commission and create a body of information on the costs and benefits, impacts to ratepayers, regulatory and policy implications, and impact on Distributed Energy Resources integration and growth due to the filing of DSPs and the evaluation of Non-Wire Alternatives.

4. Having successfully completed the task which was my charge, I now conclude that this proceeding should be closed in anticipation of a forthcoming rulemaking proceeding that will serve to further develop, refine, and ultimately promulgate distribution system planning rules for the Commission.

5. I appreciate the tremendous amount of effort the stakeholders put into this proceeding and wish to thank the Commission Staff and Advisors who also helped with this process.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. This proceeding is closed.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

Hearing Commissioner

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Doug Dean,
Director