

Decision No. C14-0294

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.

**DECISION OPENING PROCEEDING, SCHEDULING
COMMISSIONERS' INFORMATION MEETING, AND
SETTING DEADLINE FOR FILING COMMENTS**

Mailed Date: March 18, 2014
Adopted Date: March 12, 2014

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, FIRMS, OR CORPORATIONS:

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By Decision No. C14-0219-I, issued February 27, 2014 in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E,¹ the Commission granted a motion filed by the Colorado Energy Office (CEO) to sever from that proceeding, the issues related to the net metering incentive proposal of Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) and the Distributed Solar Generation Study upon which that proposal was based. The Commission also stated that it would open a new proceeding to consider net metering issues by a separate, future decision.²

¹ *In the Matter of the Application of Public Service Company of Colorado for Approval of its 2014 Renewable Energy Standard Compliance Plan.*

² Decision No. C14-0219-I, ¶ 51.

B. Conclusions and Findings

2. We find that Commission consideration of net metering and potential impacts of the expansion of retail renewable distributed generation is both timely and in the public interest, given the debate on these issues in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E.

3. We intend to confer with interested persons to identify the specific issues that should be examined in this new proceeding and to establish the goals that should be accomplished. We also want to ensure the correct procedures are used in this proceeding, given those goals and the actions required to meet them.

4. We will initiate this proceeding with a Commissioners' Information Meeting (CIM) where interested persons will have an opportunity to present their suggestions for the purpose and structure of this new proceeding.³ This CIM will allow for direct communication between the presenters and the Commissioners. The meeting is scheduled for the afternoon of **April 9, 2014**.

5. The CIM will be a structured discussion to last no longer than three hours. Our advisors will develop the agenda according to the following parameters:

- Public Service will be given an opportunity to present its recommendations on the substantive issues the Commission should address in this proceeding, objectives the Commission should meet, and the best procedures satisfying those objectives. Public Service will have up to 30 minutes, and the Commission will reserve up to 10 minutes for its questions to the Company.
- Representatives of the on-site solar industry will similarly be given an opportunity to present their recommendations on the substantive issues the Commission should address, objectives the Commission should meet, and the procedures the Commission should use. The on-site solar industry representatives will have up to 30 minutes collectively for their

³ Several recommendations on the scope and structure of a new proceeding devoted to net metering issues were offered in response to the CEO's motion in Proceeding No. 13A-0836E.

presentation, and the Commission will reserve up to 10 minutes for its questions.

- The CEO will also be given an opportunity to present its recommendations on the topics listed above. The CEO will have up to ten minutes, including time for the Commissioners' questions.
- Other interested persons will have the opportunity to make presentations on the topics listed above as time permits.⁴

6. Any interested persons, including the presenters, may file written comments in response to the presentations made at the CIM. Comments shall be filed on or before **April 29, 2014**.

7. This proceeding will commence as a non-adjudicatory, miscellaneous proceeding and there will be no parties at this time. Interested persons seeking to make a presentation at the CIM, to file written comments responsive to the presentations made at the CIM, or otherwise to take part in this matter are strongly encouraged to use the Commission's E-Filings System to file a notice of intent to participate in the proceeding. Such filings should be made pursuant to subparagraph 1204(a)(II)(C) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1. Participants can file electronically at:

<http://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>.

8. Ron Davis and Keith Hay are assigned as advisory staff to this proceeding. Inquiries regarding the information meeting discussed above should be directed to Ron Davis (ron.davis@state.co.us).⁵

⁴ This CIM will serve a different purpose than a public comment hearing. The Commission will determine whether a public comment hearing is required in this proceeding by separate decision.

⁵ Because this proceeding will commence as a non-adjudicatory proceeding, the prohibition against *ex parte* communications in Rule 1106 will not apply at this time. This prohibition may apply in the future if the Commission designates this proceeding as adjudicatory or if the persons engaging in communication know or reasonably should know this designation will occur within 30 days.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Commission opens a miscellaneous proceeding to consider the issues of retail renewable distributed generation and net metering, consistent with the discussion above.

2. This proceeding will commence as an administrative proceeding under 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-1004(b). This Proceeding shall continue as an administrative proceeding unless and until the Commission designates it to be an adjudicated proceeding by separate decision.

3. A Commissioners' Information Meeting in this matter is scheduled as follows:

DATE: April 9, 2014
TIME: 1:00 p.m.
PLACE: Commission Hearing Room
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado

4. Consistent with the discussion above, any person desiring to participate in this proceeding, including Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, shall file a notice of participation by April 4, 2014. Interested persons requesting to make a presentation at the April 9, 2014 meeting are encouraged to submit a notice of participation before March 21, 2014.

5. Interested persons shall file comments responsive to the presentations made at the information meeting on or before April 29, 2014,

6. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 12, 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