

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0301E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL TO ISSUE TARGETED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TO ACQUIRE GENERATION RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE SOLAR*CONNECT PROGRAM.

**INTERIM DECISION DENYING
REQUEST FOR SHORTENED RESPONSE TIME**

Mailed Date: May 9, 2014
Adopted Date: May 7, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement and Findings

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of a request for a shortened response time to a Motion for Expedited Bidding Procedures Schedule (Motion) filed by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) on May 6, 2014.

2. On April 3, 2014, Public Service filed an Application for Approval to Issue Targeted Request for Proposals to Acquire Generation Resources to Support the Solar*Connect Program (Application). Public Service seeks approval of a competitive solicitation to acquire new photovoltaic (PV) generation facilities totaling up to approximately 50 MW. The acquired PV resources would support the Company's proposed Solar*Connect program.

3. Public Service explains in the Application that, with respect to the Solar*Connect Program, the Company also filed on April 3, 2014, an application for approval of the new product offering.¹ Public Service states in the Application that it wants the implementation of the

¹ The Solar*Connect application was filed in Proceeding No. 14A-0302E.

competitive solicitation to proceed on a “path parallel” with the Commission’s consideration of its Solar*Connect application. Application, at 2.

4. By the Motion, Public Service seeks a decision on the Application by July 9, 2014 in order for the Company to preserve its opportunity to take advantage of the existing 30 percent federal investment tax credit (ITC) before it is reduced to 10 percent on December 31, 2016² and for the Commission and parties to consider the results of the bidding in Proceeding No. 14A-0302E concerning the proposed Solar*Connect program. Public Service states there will not be sufficient time to conduct a competitive solicitation for the PV resources and to have the facilities in service by December 31, 2016 if the Company cannot issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) until after it receives a final order on the Solar*Connect program. In addition, Public Service explains that the proposed RFP states that the ultimate execution of any contract offered to Public Service through this RFP will be contingent upon ultimate Commission approval of the proposed Solar*Connect program.

5. With respect to expedited consideration of the Application, Public Service similarly requested a shortened notice and intervention period for the Application when it was filed on April 3, 2014. The Commission denied the request for a shortened notice and intervention period by Decision No. C14-0384-I issued on April 9, 2014.

6. We also deny the request for shortened response time to the Motion. The Commission will decide significant policy issues in this proceeding as well as in Proceeding No. 14A-0302E concerning the proposed Solar*Connect program. Consideration of both applications must not be rushed and parties require sufficient time to complete their analyses.

² The Motion states that the ITC reduces to 10 percent both on December 31, 2015 (at page 1) and December 31, 2016 (at page 3).

7. We have questions regarding the proposed RFP, including the expected cost to ratepayers of the solar facilities proposed to be acquired through this solicitation and the impact of those costs on the Company's Renewable Energy Standard Adjustment account. We also have concerns about the acquisition of additional solar resources outside of the Company's recently completed Electric Resource Plan proceeding (Proceeding No. 11A-869E). Our review of the proposed timing of the solicitation is also affected by our consideration of the merits of the proposed Solar*Connect program and its impact on net metering and the Company's Solar*Rewards programs at issue in a number of other ongoing proceedings.

8. In conclusion, we are not persuaded to shorten response time to the Motion. The normal response time of 14 days pursuant to Rule 1400(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1 will apply to the Motion. Responses to the Motion shall be filed no later than May 20, 2014.

II. ORDER

A. **It Is Ordered That:**

1. The request for a shortened response time to the Motion for Expedited Bidding Procedures Schedule (Motion) filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on May 6, 2014 is denied, consistent with the discussion above.

2. Responses to the Motion shall be filed no later than May 20, 2014, consistent with the discussion above.

3. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
May 7, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER GLENN A. VAAD ABSENT.