

Decision No. C19-0499-I

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 19A-0225E

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS COMMUNITY RESILIENCY INITIATIVE PURSUANT TO § 40-2-203(4), C.R.S.

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**INTERIM DECISION GRANTING MOTION FOR LEAVE  
TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECT TESTIMONY**

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Mailed Date: June 12, 2019

Adopted Date: June 6, 2019

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. This Decision grants the Motion for Leave to File Supplemental Direct Testimony (Motion) filed by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) related to its Application for Approval of its Community Resiliency Initiative pursuant to § 40-2-203(4), C.R.S. (Application) filed on May 1, 2019.

2. In accordance with our granting of the Motion and the initial procedures established in Decision No. C19-0426-I, Commission Administrative Staff shall issue a 30-day Notice of Application Filed within 10 days of the filing of the Supplemental Direct Testimony.

**B. Discussion**

3. Public Service seeks authority to add up to 15 MW of rate-based energy storage system projects in alignment with Colorado's Energy Storage Procurement Act (House Bill 18-1270). Public Service states that § 40-2-203(4), C.R.S., provides, in part, that electric utilities may file applications for rate-based projects, not to exceed fifteen MW of capacity, for energy storage systems on or before May 1, 2019.

4. Public Service explains in the Application that its proposed Community Resiliency Initiative will apply the Company's operational resources to develop community-based energy storage projects to enhance grid safety, reliability, and resiliency. The Company adds that many communities are establishing "resiliency centers" to maintain stable functions during and immediately following a major or extreme weather event and that such resiliency centers are typically existing structures, services, and facilities considered crucial to the community, such as first responder facilities, waste water treatment facilities, evacuation and shelter areas, communications, and traffic safety infrastructure. Public Service proposes utility-owned energy storage systems to ensure Colorado's citizens remain secure in the face of emergency situations. Under the framework of the proposed Community Resiliency Initiative, Public Service will identify partnerships across its service territory to develop specific energy storage system projects and issue a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for the design and construction of the projects.

5. Public Service also states in the Application that the benefits associated with the Community Resiliency Initiative include: (1) improving resiliency within Colorado communities; (2) supporting the Company's clean energy transition through the integration of distributed energy storage; (3) providing additional benefits to the grid such as system peak reduction and distribution feeder support; and (4) providing clean energy jobs to the Colorado workforce.

6. Public Service states that the Company intends to work with potential community partners to identify energy storage system projects to pursue as part of the Community Resiliency Initiative and then to issue an RFP in summer of 2019 to identify construction partners, with a goal of identifying projects and completing the RFP process by fall of 2019.

Public Service proposes to bring the results of the RFP process to the Commission by the end of 2019, after which time the Commission could conduct a hearing on the merits of the projects.

7. Public Service states in the Motion that the Company seeks to file Supplemental Direct Testimony to present detailed information regarding the capital, operations and maintenance, and labor costs for each Company-owned energy storage system proposed to be developed. Public Service explains that it ultimately seeks a presumption of prudence for the costs incurred in relation to the Initiative.

8. Public Service proposes to submit the Supplemental Direct Testimony and relevant additional information on or before December 16, 2019. Public Service states that its proposed procedural schedule will extend beyond the 210-day statutory deadline under § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S., and therefore the Company agrees to waive the statutory deadlines pursuant to § 40-6-109.5(3), C.R.S.

9. On May 16, 2019, by Decision No. C19-0426-I, we ordered that responses to the Motion be filed no later than May 29, 2019. The Commission also waived Rule 1206(a) and Rule 1303(c) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1.

10. No responses to the Motion were filed.

**C. Findings and Conclusions**

11. We find good cause to grant the Motion, as it is unopposed.

12. Public Service shall submit Supplemental Direct Testimony as described by the Company no later than December 16, 2019.

13. In accordance with the initial procedures established in Decision No. C19-0426-I, Commission Administrative Staff shall issue a 30-day Notice of Application Filed within 10 days

of the filing of the Supplemental Direct Testimony. Such notice shall provide interested persons an opportunity to seek intervention in this Proceeding; to request a hearing, as necessary; and otherwise to respond to the Application.

**II. ORDER**

**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. The Motion for Leave to File Supplemental Direct Testimony filed by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) on May 1, 2019, is granted, consistent with the discussion above.

2. Public Service shall file Supplemental Direct Testimony on or before December 16, 2019.

3. Commission Administrative Staff shall issue a 30-day Notice of Application Filed within 10 days of the filing of the Supplemental Direct Testimony, consistent with the discussion above.

4. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
June 6, 2019.**

( S E A L )



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

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FRANCES A. KONCILJA

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JOHN GAVAN

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Commissioners