

Decision No. C20-0533-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20M-0267EG

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 20-030
RELATING TO INCREASED CONSUMER PROTECTIONS FOR INVESTOR OWNED
UTILITIES.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION ESTABLISHING
THE AGENDA FOR THE COMMISSIONERS'
INFORMATION MEETING**

Mailed Date: July 22, 2020
Adopted Date: July 22, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On June 19, 2020, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission issued Decision No. C20-0452, opening this miscellaneous proceeding to collect comments and other information regarding the statutory changes in Senate Bill (SB) 20-030. Those changes direct the Commission to promulgate rules regarding reporting requirements for medical exemptions from electricity tiered rates and standard practices for disconnection policies applicable to all Colorado gas and electric utilities. The rulemaking concerning disconnection policies must begin on or before September 1, 2020.

2. The Commission also requested that the Colorado electric and gas investor-owned utilities respond to questions regarding the utilities' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, comparison to previous years' data in outlined categories, and other information as stated in that Decision.

3. Through a separate decision, the Commission will consider a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) to implement the requirements in SB 20-030. Stakeholder comments, proposed rule revisions, and discussion in this outreach proceeding will be instrumental in a future NOPR issued pursuant to the requirements in §§ 40-3-103.5, 40-3-103.6, 40-3-106, and 40-3-110, C.R.S.

4. Decision No. C20-0452 also scheduled a Commissioners' Information Meeting (CIM) for July 29, 2020, and set initial requirements for participation.

5. The following stakeholders filed comments in response to the Commission's Decision No. C20-0452, on or before July 10, 2020:

- Atmos Energy Corporation
- Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLL / Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. (Black Hills)
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- Public Service Company of Colorado
- Sierra Club

6. The Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel and Energy Outreach Colorado filed notices of participation for this Proceeding, but did not submit initial comments.

7. Although requested, Colorado Natural Gas, Inc., has not yet submitted initial comments.

B. Discussion

8. The Commission finds that additional discussion is useful to clarify issues related to implementation of SB20-030. Accordingly, the Commission will proceed with the CIM as scheduled.

9. Given statutory deadlines, the scope of the CIM will be narrowed from that described in Decision No. C20-0452 in order to focus primarily on SB 20-030 issues. Utilities' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional Commissioner questions will be addressed on a separate procedural path to be determined at a future Commissioners' Weekly Meeting.

10. We require Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC and Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc., Public Service Company of Colorado, Atmos Energy Corporation, and Colorado Natural Gas, Inc., to participate in this CIM and invite other stakeholders to participate as well.

11. The Commission anticipates seeking feedback from stakeholders during the CIM on at least three distinct issues.

12. First, the Commission asks regulated utilities to clarify the practices related to delinquencies, disconnections, and reconnections, as described in their initial comments. The Commission would like regulated utilities to be prepared to describe relevant definitions, notice practices, fees and charges, budget billing and payment plan options, reconnection costs, and collections costs and practices. Regulated utilities should be prepared to explain trends associated with delinquencies and disconnections in 2020 as compared to 2019. Regulated utilities may propose to respond to these issues through a brief presentation.

13. Second, the Commission is interested in further stakeholder comments related to standard practices for electric and gas utilities to use when disconnecting service due to nonpayment, in order to inform the initial Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in response to SB 20-030. The Commission is likely to ask for comments on at least the following issues: use of remote disconnection for customers served by advanced metering infrastructure; perspectives on disconnection moratoriums; connections between medical exemption rates and disconnection; and

reporting needs related to delinquencies and disconnections. Stakeholders may propose to provide brief presentations on these issues.

14. Third, the Commission is interested in further stakeholder comments related to the implementation of the rate design and revenue neutrality provision of SB20-030.

15. Subject to time, stakeholders may also provide other feedback as useful.

II. **ORDER**

A. **The Commission Orders That:**

1. A Commissioners' Information Meeting (CIM) shall continue to be held as follows:

DATE: July 29, 2020

TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

FOR WEBCASTS: Hearing Room A

METHOD: Join by video conference or by telephone at the link provided below

2. The CIM will be conducted using GoToMeeting:

Video Conference: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/958531653>

By Telephone: +1 (571) 317-3122, Access Code: 958-531-653

3. On or before July 24, 2020, regulated utilities shall provide notice in this Proceeding as to who will attend and provide comments at this CIM.

4. On or before July 24, 2020, other stakeholders are requested to provide notice in this Proceeding as to whether they will attend the CIM and whether they wish to provide oral comments on any of the topics outlined in this Decision.

5. Stakeholders wanting to listen to the CIM, but not wanting to participate may listen to the CIM through the Commission’s webcasting at: www.puc.colorado.gov/webcasts.

6. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS’ WEEKLY MEETING
July 22, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners