

Decision No. R24-0937-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24M-0261G

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S EXAMINATION OF GAS SYSTEM FORECASTING, MAPPING, AND COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECISION NO. C24-0092 ADDRESSING THE INAUGURAL GAS INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO.

**INTERIM DECISION OF HEARING COMMISSIONER
ORDERING THE FILING OF CERTAIN
RESPONSIVE INFORMATION BY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY OF COLORADO**

Issued Date: December 20, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By Decision No. C24-0376, the Commission opened this Proceeding to examine Public Service Company of Colorado's ("Public Service" or the "Company") gas system forecasting, mapping, and cost benefit analysis in accordance with Decision C24-0092 issued on February 23, 2024, in Proceeding No. 23M-0234G (the "GIP Decision"). The Commission designated Commissioner Megan M. Gilman as Hearing Commissioner pursuant to § 40-6-101(2), C.R.S.

2. This Decision sets requires Public Service to file certain information related to its upcoming GIP filing discussed below no later than January 10, 2025.

B. Discussion, Findings, and Conclusions

3. By Decision No. C24-0376 issued on June 4, 2024, the Commission opened this Proceeding to examine Public Service Company of Colorado's ("Public Service" or the "Company") gas system load forecasting, mapping, and non-pipeline alternative cost benefit analysis ("CBA"). The three topics were identified in Decision C24-0092 issued on February 23, 2024, in Proceeding No. 23M-0234G (the "GIP Decision") as areas in which the Commission wanted to see progress prior to the filing of the Company's next Gas Infrastructure Plan ("GIP"). The Commission designated Commissioner Megan M. Gilman as Hearing Commissioner pursuant to § 40-6-101(2), C.R.S.

4. Recommended Decision No. 24-0480-I explains the purpose of this Proceeding is to identify, develop, and express the Commission's expectations regarding certain substantive areas which the Commission identified as needing further development in the Public Service's most recent Gas Infrastructure Plan proceeding ("GIP"). This Miscellaneous docket ("M-docket") is intended as a venue to follow up on this and other issues in order to make interim progress prior to the filing of the Company's next GIP.

5. The Commission held an initial series of three workshops in the Proceeding in which Public Service and invited stakeholders presented on and helped the Commission develop expectations on the Proceeding's three topic areas in advance of the Company's next Gas Infrastructure Plan ("GIP") filing.

6. Comments were received in response to Decision No. C24-0708-I, issued on October 1, 2024, from the Company. Responsive comments were filed by Advanced Energy United and Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and Western Resource Advocates, collectively, on November 22, 2024.

7. On December 12, 2024, Commissioner Gilman held a final workshop at which the participants discussed all three topic areas and at which the Company presented further information on its intention for its next GIP filing.

8. At the December 12, 2024, workshop several topics were discussed at length by the Company and participants, including those related to gas system load forecasting, mapping, and non-pipeline alternative cost benefit analysis (“CBA”). On certain topics, including: (1) residential energy use studies that inform the Company’s forecasting efforts; (2) trends in sales and customer count; and (3) peer-to-peer sharing of GIS-based system maps, the Company representatives were not able to answer all inquiries, or stated they could follow up with additional information.

9. In order to fully understand the Company’s intentions and processes in place in relation to its upcoming GIP filing, the Company shall provide additional information on the following topics:

- a. Please identify why the 2022 Home Energy Use Study was considered by the Company to be confidential. Also, provide a non-confidential version consistent with Rule 1101 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1.
- b. Provide the following additional information related to the 2022 Residential Energy Use Study (Filed as “Confidential Attachment C” on September 3, 2024, in this Proceeding):
 - i. Response data disaggregated by year of construction for each survey question for which the Company reported “New Home” or “Newer Home” as a separate percentage or statistic, e.g. for Q10B, provide new rows that show the percentage of primary home heating system by year for the five years the Company included in the “New Home” percentage which the Hearing Commissioner understands to include homes constructed in 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022.
 - ii. Raw tabulated data from the survey results, in executable form, if available

- c. Please submit the following related to the 2024 Residential Energy Use Study:
 - i. The survey questions;
 - ii. Raw tabulated data from the survey results, in executable form, if available;
 - iii. Analogous to the data request in (b), the response data underlying the 2024 Residential Customer Use Study. At a minimum, this data should include data by year for each survey question for which the Company reported “New Home” or “Newer Home” as a single percentage or statistic, e.g. for the Q10B in the 2022 Energy Use Study results, provide new rows that show the percentage of primary home heating system by year for the five years the Company included in the “New Home” percentage which the Hearing Commissioner understands to include homes constructed in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the 2024 Residential Energy Use Study;
- d. Please provide a table detailing mean annual retail gas sales per residential customer for the past 15 years.
- e. At the December 12, 2024 workshop, Company witness Matley expressed plans to provide on a highly confidential basis, “peer-to-peer” sharing to regularly practicing intervenors who have their own ArcGIS license during the 2025 GIP proceeding. Please describe the pipe characteristics displayed and/or available on the GIS system that the Company anticipates to make available.¹

10. The Company shall provide the information detailed under each of the three categories above no later than January 10, 2025.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. Consistent with the discussion above, Public Service Company of Colorado is requested to file responsive information no later than January 10, 2025.

¹ Workshop: Improvements to Gas Infrastructure Plans - Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 2:59:00, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnQg0KBl7M>

2. This Decision is effective immediately upon its Issued Date.

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Hearing Commissioner

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director