

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

PROCEEDING NO. 25A-0176G

---

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A NATURAL GAS DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR CALENDAR YEARS 2026 AND 2027.

---

**INTERIM DECISION GRANTING MOTION TO  
INTERVENE, SCHEDULING REMOTE  
PREHEARING CONFERENCE,  
REQUIRING PARTIES TO CONFER AND BLACK HILLS  
TO FILE A CONFERRAL REPORT**

---

---

Issued Date: June 24, 2025

**I. STATEMENT**

**A. Relevant Procedural Background**

1. On April 25, 2025, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy (“Black Hills”) filed an Application with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission for approval for a natural gas energy efficiency or demand side management (“DSM”) and strategic issues (“SI”) plan for calendar years 2026-2027. In support of its Application, Black Hills filed Direct Testimony and accompanying attachments of three witnesses.

2. The Commission issued a Notice of Application Filed on May 1, 2025 that set a 30-day intervention period.

3. On May 19, 2025, May 30, 2025, and June 2, 2025, the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate, the Colorado Energy Office, and Trial Staff of the Commission filed Notices Of Intervention By Right, respectively.

4. On June 2, 2025, Energy Outreach Colorado (“EOC”) filed an Unopposed Motion To Permissively Intervene in this Proceeding (“Motion to Intervene”).

5. On June 11, 2025, the Commission deemed the Application complete and referred the proceeding to an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) by minute entry. The proceeding was subsequently assigned to the undersigned ALJ.

**B. Motion to Permissively Intervene**

6. The Motion to Intervene filed by EOC satisfies Rule 1401(c) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. In addition, no party has opposed the Motion to Intervene. Accordingly, the Motion to Intervene will be granted.

**C. Remote Prehearing Conference**

7. It is appropriate to hold a remote prehearing conference in this proceeding. Accordingly, a remote prehearing conference will be scheduled for **July 8, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.** The remote prehearing conference will be conducted over the Zoom videoconferencing platform. The ALJ or a member of Commission Staff will email the log-in information in advance of the hearing.

**D. Conferral and Conferral Report**

8. Black Hills shall confer with the other parties in advance of the remote prehearing conference regarding a schedule for this proceeding, any discovery procedures that are inconsistent with the Commission’s rules governing discovery, and the method by which the hearing should be conducted. The Commission can conduct in-person, remote, or hybrid hearings. A remote hearing is one in which all of the participants appear and participate from remote locations over the Zoom web conferencing platform. A hybrid hearing involves the ALJ and at least one party and/or witness participating from one of the Commission’s hearing rooms in Denver, and the remaining

party(ies) and witness(es) participating from one or more remote locations using the Zoom web conferencing platform. An in-person hearing is one in which the ALJ and all parties and witnesses participate in the hearing at the same location.

9. Black Hills shall file a report of the results of the conferral. If there is agreement on a schedule, including deadlines for, among other things, the filing of prehearing testimony (including the Supplemental Direct testimony ordered by the Commission in Decision No. C25-0074), dates for the hearing, discovery procedures that are inconsistent with the Commission's rules governing discovery, and/or the method for conducting the hearing (i.e., remote, hybrid, or in-person), the report shall state as much and detail the stipulated procedural schedule, discovery procedures, and/or method for conducting the hearing. If no agreement is achieved, the report shall state as much and identify the competing schedules, discovery procedures, and/or methods for conducting the hearing proposed by the parties. The parties are on notice that the ALJ will retain the discretion to change the method by which the hearing will be conducted.

10. The parties are urged to review the Commission's public calendar to identify suitable dates for the hearing in this proceeding and propose more than one date or consecutive dates for the hearing. The latest date on which the hearing can conclude is October 16, 2025, which assumes that the deadline for a final Commission decision will be extended 130 days pursuant to § 40-6-109.5(1), C.R.S. The ALJ will not be available for a hearing from September 14-19, 2025. The deadline for Black Hills to file the report is **July 3, 2025**.

11. All parties must appear at the remote prehearing conference. Failure to attend or to participate in the remote prehearing conference is a waiver of any objection to the rulings made,

to the procedural schedule established, and to the hearing dates scheduled during the remote prehearing conference.

**II. ORDER**

**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. The Motion to Permissively Intervene filed by Energy Outreach Colorado (“EOC”) on June 2, 2025, is granted.

2. The Notices of Intervention filed by the Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (“UCA”), the Colorado Energy Office (“CEO”), and Commission Trial Staff (“Staff”) on May 19 and 30, 2025, and June 2, 2025, respectively, are acknowledged.

3. The parties in this proceeding are Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy (“Black Hills”), UCA, CEO, Staff, and EOC.

4. A remote prehearing conference in this proceeding is scheduled as follows:

DATE: July 8, 2025

TIME: 10:30 a.m.

WEBCAST: Commission Hearing Room

METHOD: Join by video conference using Zoom at the link to be provided in an email from Commission Administrative Staff<sup>1</sup>

5. Nobody should appear in-person for the remote prehearing conference.

6. Black Hills shall file the report of the conferral identified above on or before July 3, 2025.

---

<sup>1</sup> Additional information about the Zoom platform and how to use the platform are available at: <https://zoom.us/>. All are strongly encouraged to participate in a test meeting prior to the scheduled hearing. See <https://zoom.us/test>.

7. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

CONOR F. FARLEY

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Rebecca E. White,  
Director