

Decision No. R24-0779-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
GRANTING MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME TO
SUBMIT PROPOSALS AND PROVIDE INFORMATION IN
RESPONSE TO DECISION NO. C24-0708-I, EXTENDING
DEADLINE FOR RESPONSIVE STAKEHOLDER
COMMENTS, AND SCHEDULING WORKSHOP ON
DECEMBER 12, 2024**

Issued Date: October 25, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

1. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

2. 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 Commission designated Commissioner Megan M. Gilman as Hearing Commissioner pursuant to § 40-6-101(2), C.R.S. The Commission held 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.

3. On October 1, 2024, Hearing Commissioner Gilman issued Decision No. C24-0708-I requiring Public Service to file certain information related to its upcoming GIP filing no later than October 23, 2024, and set November 13, 2024, as the deadline for responsive stakeholder comments.

4. On October 23, 2024, the day the Company's response was due, Public Service filed a Motion for Additional Time to Submit Proposals and Provide Information in Response to Decision No. C24-0708-I ("Motion") requesting the Hearing Commissioner extend the deadline for Public Service to file information related to its upcoming GIP filing to November 1, 2024. In support of the Motion, Public Service asserts it is actively working to provide the Commission with the requested information but explains it requires more time to respond to the Commission's request due to the complexity of the issues presented and the need for "cross-departmental collaboration" which is complicated by the limited availability of key personnel.

5. Despite the Motion being filed on the date the Company's filings are due, thereby giving minimal notice to the Commission or interested stakeholders that the Company would not be complying with the Commission's deadline, the Hearing Commissioner finds good cause to grant the requested extension. The new deadline for responses to the requests for proposals and information set forth in Decision No. C24-0708-I is November 1, 2024. In order to take up this motion expeditiously and provide timely relief, the Commission waives remaining response time to the motion. Certainly, it is conceivable the Company knew of the delay in its ability to develop the requested information earlier than the morning of the Commission's deadline, especially considering the nine-day requested delay. In the future, the Company should endeavor to provide appropriate notice if additional time is needed.

6. Accordingly, the Hearing Commissioner extends the deadline for interested stakeholders to file responsive comments to the Company's filing to November 22, 2024. Responsive comments are invited from any interested individual or party, including those who have not previously participated in this Proceeding, to ensure all critiques, ideas and recommendations can be properly considered.

7. By this Decision, the Hearing Commissioner also schedules a workshop for December 12, 2024, to discuss the Company's filings and stakeholder feedback. While it was the original intent to hold this workshop prior to the Thanksgiving holiday, the delays addressed herein make that timing impracticable, so the workshop will have to shift several weeks in order to also avoid a pre-scheduled hearing taking place following the Thanksgiving holiday. The workshop is expected to include participation from, at a minimum, the Company and other stakeholders who have provided substantive participation or comments related to any of the areas covered in this proceeding. The objective will be to identify if there are pathways to bridge any gaps between the Company's initial proposal and stakeholder recommendations. As currently envisioned, this workshop will likely be the last engagement forum, outside of informal comment filings, within this proceeding prior to development of a Recommended Decision. However, it is possible that this plan may adjust, as needed, based upon the filings and process yet to come within this proceeding.

8. The workshop is scheduled to commence at 1:00 p.m. and will conclude no later than 5:00 p.m.

9. The workshop will be conducted using the web platform Zoom. Participants will be provided by email the link, meeting ID code, passcode, and call-in information to join the Zoom session. However, the public may view through the Commission's website, as discussed below.

10. Consistent with Commission practice, the workshop will be webcast on the Commission's website. Persons wishing to observe may do so by observing the webcast on the PUC YouTube Channel at: youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/featured either live during the event or afterwards.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The Motion for Additional Time to Submit Proposals and Provide Information in Response to Decision No. C24-0708-I, filed on October 23, 2024, by Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service”), is granted *nunc pro tunc* to October 23, 2024.

2. Response time to the motion is waived.

3. Any stakeholder comments responsive to Public Service’s filing shall be filed no later than November 22, 2024.

4. Consistent with the discussion above, a workshop to discuss Public Service's filing and any responsive stakeholder comments is scheduled as follows:

DATE: December 12, 2024

TIME: 1:00 p.m., continuing until concluded, but no later than 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: by video conference or telephone using the Zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who will be participating.

5. Those wishing to observe the December 12, 2024, workshop may do so by observing the Commission's webcast of the workshop on the PUC YouTube Channel at: youtube.com/@COPublicUtilitiesCommission/featured.

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

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Hearing Commissioner

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Rebecca E. White,
Director