

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

PROCEEDING NO. 24A-0442E

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF  
COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2024 JUST TRANSITION SOLICITATION.

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**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION SCHEDULING  
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

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Issued Date: February 13, 2025

Adopted Date: February 5, 2025

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. Through this Decision, we schedule a technical conference on March 20, 2025, at which Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or the “Company”) shall be prepared to address certain models and forecasts the Company has put forth both in this 2024 Just Transition Solicitation (“JTS”) Proceeding as well as in Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, which is the Company’s 2025-2029 Distribution System Plan (“DSP”).

**B. Discussion**

2. Public Service filed its Application initiating the JTS Proceeding on October 15, 2024. In the JTS Proceeding, Public Service argues that future growth in electric vehicles (“EVs”), beneficial electrification (“BE”), and large new loads like data centers contribute to the projected need to acquire almost 14 GW of new generation and storage resources.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hr. Ex. 101, Attachment JW1-1, p. 10; Hr. Ex. 101, Ihle Direct, pp. 28-29; Hr. Ex. 106, Goodenough Direct, p. 6.

3. In Decision No. C24-0956-I,<sup>2</sup> the Commission directed Public Service to provide supplemental direct testimony on several topics, including the Company's forecasts. For instance, we required Public Service to provide supplemental direct testimony identifying the contribution to annual energy sales and summer and winter peak load attributed to the Company's most recent Transportation Electrification, Clean Heat, and Demand Side Management/BE plans for the Company's forecasts and to separately identify any additional load growth contributions attributable to EVs and BE that are incremental to the levels approved in those plans.<sup>3</sup> Similarly, we directed Public Service to provide a lower-low forecast in which the Company assumes growth rates in BE and EVs consistent with what was assumed in the 2021 ERP.<sup>4</sup>

4. As noted in Decision No. C24-0941-I, issued December 23, 2024, Public Service filed its Application in the DSP on December 16, 2024.<sup>5</sup> In the Application, Public Service requests approximately \$4.9 billion in total distribution-related capital spending through 2029, which would be recovered through a Grid Modernization Adjustment Clause.<sup>6</sup> In its testimony, the Company notes that it has adopted a new LoadSEER platform to perform distribution forecasting. Public Service explains that LoadSEER allows the Company to allocate various forecasts—including EV and BE—for purposes of distribution system planning.<sup>7</sup>

5. In the DSP Proceeding, the Commission required Public Service to provide additional information pursuant to 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-1301(c)(III) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure to allow the Commission to determine the

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<sup>2</sup> Issued December 31, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Decision No. C24-0956-I, ¶¶ 19-20.

<sup>4</sup> Decision No. C24-0956-I, ¶ 8.

<sup>5</sup> Decision No. C24-0941-I, ¶ 20.

<sup>6</sup> Proceeding No. 22A-0547E, Decision No. C25-0057, issued January 24, 2025, ¶ 9.

<sup>7</sup> Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Hr. Ex. 105, Mino Direct, pp. 12, 15.

completeness of the Application for purposes of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.<sup>8</sup> For example, we directed Public Service to file an 8760 hourly matrix and a summary 12 x 24 for three separate customer classes. The Commission specified that these 8760 matrices were to break out the load into the following four categories: BE, behind-the-meter solar, EVs, and remaining contributions to load.<sup>9</sup> Public Service is also required to provide an additional rate analysis that, among other things, isolates the residential class.<sup>10</sup>

6. As we have noted in earlier decisions, there appears to be parallel forecasting from the Company in the JTS Proceeding and the DSP Proceeding.<sup>11</sup> For instance, the assumptions regarding the load shapes and adoption rates of EVs and BE appear to be to be critical in each proceeding. To allow the Commission and parties to have more transparency regarding certain critical forecasts and models underlying filings made in the Commission's records through both the JTS and DSP Proceedings, we find it appropriate to schedule a technical conference for March 20, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. While these proceedings are on separate procedural tracks, the additional transparency the technical conference provides will hopefully enhance the effectiveness of discovery and answer testimony from intervening parties and will further prepare the Commission for the subsequent evidentiary hearings.

7. The March 20, 2025 date for the technical conference works well for the JTS Proceeding, where it will be roughly a month after the deadline for supplemental direct, but a

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<sup>8</sup> Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Decision No. C25-0057-I, issued January 24, 2025.

<sup>9</sup> Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Decision No. C25-0057-I, pp. 7-8.

<sup>10</sup> Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Decision No. C25-0057-I, p. 7.

<sup>11</sup> Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Decision No. C25-0057-I, ¶ 14 and Proceeding No. 24A-0442E, Decision No. C24-0941-I, ¶ 20.

month before answer testimony is due. For the DSP Proceeding, the March 20, 2025 date is appropriately after the deadline for the completeness filings on February 14, 2025.<sup>12</sup>

8. Public Service shall be prepared to answer clarifying questions from the Commissioners at the technical conference. Intervenor and the public will be allowed to observe, subject to appropriate confidentiality protections.<sup>13</sup> Similar to the previously scheduled evidentiary hearing,<sup>14</sup> the technical conference will be conducted using the Zoom platform, and Commission staff will distribute the link and meeting ID, or access code, to attend the technical conference to the parties by email approximately one week prior to the technical conference. Intervenor is prohibited from sharing the Zoom access information.

9. After the technical conference, the Company and intervenors will have the opportunity in both proceedings to potentially build on areas of discussion by further developing their positions via discovery, testimony, and at the evidentiary hearings.

10. While the agenda for the technical conference may be further refined closer to the March 20, 2025 date, at this time we are cognizant of several topics that Public Service must be prepared to address.<sup>15</sup> Public Service shall make available for questioning the Company officials, including Mr. Goodenough, who are able to discuss the models and forecasts regarding the

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<sup>12</sup> At this time, the application in the DSP Proceeding is yet to be deemed complete. Through future order in the DSP Proceeding, the Commission will address this technical conference as it relates to development of the record in that case. Regardless of next steps taken in the DSP Proceeding, explanation of the underlying and anticipated forecasting documents filed in the DSP Proceeding identified here will benefit understanding of the JTS forecasting representations for further discovery and testimony. This discussion will better allow the Commission and parties to understand the Company's parallel vision presented concurrently in these filings.

<sup>13</sup> While we are hopeful that most of the technical conference can be public and webcast, it appears that some of the relevant information has been listed as confidential. If a confidential session is anticipated, we anticipate the Company shall confer with any necessary parties and provide a list of participants permitted in sessions regarding particular modeling discussions. The Commission anticipates webcasting the technical conference publicly, unless there are specific discussions needing confidential session where intervenors can be included subject to any necessary non-disclosure agreements.

<sup>14</sup> Decision No. C25-0064-I, ¶¶ 35-36.

<sup>15</sup> As noted above, we anticipate confirming these and any other specific filings the Company should be prepared to discuss prior to the technical conference.

adoption rates and load shapes for EVs and BE. The Company should likewise make available Mr. Bailey and any other relevant Company official who can discuss the assumptions regarding data centers and other large forecasted loads. It is our expectation that this discussion will include any updates to load projections based on developments in data center technology. Public Service should further have the relevant Company officials prepared to demonstrate the 8760 process used to develop the peak forecast, including the underlying load shapes (*e.g.*, EVs, BE, and data centers).<sup>16</sup> Any witnesses sponsoring information regarding these forecasts and the 8760 process in either the supplemental direct testimony in the JTS Proceeding or the completeness filings in the DSP Proceeding should also be prepared to answer questions at the technical conference.

11. If the Company's DSP Application is deemed complete prior to the technical conference, Public Service shall make available for questioning the Company officials, including Mr. Mino, who are able to discuss the LoadSEER tool and demonstrate how it generated the relevant forecasts in the DSP Proceeding.<sup>17</sup> This could include how the various component loads are built into one forecast that is then disaggregated into geospatial modeling for purposes of identifying necessary distribution investments. For the LoadSEER platform and all models at the technical conference, the Company must be prepared to demonstrate the models in real time as opposed to simply describing the models and their outputs.

12. We acknowledge the Company's offer to present the long-term rate analysis model submitted in the JTS Proceeding.<sup>18</sup> We are more interested, however, in the residential customer rate analysis we directed Public Service to file in the DSP Proceeding and how it is impacted by

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<sup>16</sup> See Hr. Ex. 106, Goodenough Direct, pp. 8-9 (explaining the use of the 8760 approach to calculate demand forecast).

<sup>17</sup> See Proceeding No. 24A-0547E, Hr. Ex. 105, Mino Direct, pp. 12-15 (discussing the Company's use of the LoadSEER platform).

<sup>18</sup> Hr. Ex. 101, Ihle Direct, pp. 117-18.

the 8760 load shape projections. We directed Public Service include this rate analysis as part of its completeness filings due on February 14, 2025. Once the Commission has had the opportunity to review the completeness filings, we may further refine the scope of the technical conference, potentially in both the JTS and DSP Proceedings should the latter be deemed complete.

## **II. ORDER**

### **A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. A remote technical conference is scheduled in this Proceeding as follows:

DATE: March 20, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

PLACE: Join by video conference using Zoom

2. Consistent with the discussion above, at the technical conference Public Service Company of Colorado shall be prepared to address certain forecasts and assumptions and demonstrate applicable models.

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

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
February 5, 2025.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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Commissioners