

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24A-0442E

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

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION
SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS**

Issued Date: March 25, 2025

Adopted Date: March 19, 2025

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On October 15, 2024, Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or the “Company”) filed a Verified Application for Approval of its 2024 Just Transition Solicitation (“Application”).

2. By Decision No. C25-0064-I, issued January 29, 2025, the Commission adopted a procedural schedule and scheduled an *en banc* evidentiary hearing. By this Decision, we add two in-person public comment hearings and one remote public comment hearing to the procedural schedule in this matter.

B. Discussion, Findings, and Conclusions

3. The concept of the Just Transition Solicitation (“JTS”) first appeared in the Updated Non-Unanimous Partial Settlement Agreement (“USA”) that Public Service filed in the 2021 Electric Resource Plan/Clean Energy Plan in April 2022. The JTS ties to provisions in the USA that Unit 3 of the coal-fired facility in Pueblo will retire no later than January 1, 2031. The Unit 3

retirement date in the USA harmonizes with another provision in the USA that has allowed Public Service to defer acquiring replacement resources for Unit 3 to the JTS. In addition to the early retirement of Unit 3, the USA contemplates the early retirement of coal-fired facilities in Craig and Hayden. Specifically, Craig 2 is set to retire in 2028, Hayden 1 will retire in 2028, and Hayden 2 will retire in 2027. Per the USA, the Pawnee coal-fired power plant in Morgan County will be converted to natural gas no later than January 1, 2026.¹

4. In Public Service's JTS Application, the Company list several objectives for the JTS, including advancing a just transition for communities impacted by the accelerated coal retirements,² and acquiring sufficient resources to fulfill resource adequacy, all while achieving an 80 percent emissions reduction by 2030. The Company argues that it will need a large resource portfolio in order to accomplish these important objectives. More specifically, Public Service argues that it will need to acquire almost 14 GW of new generation and storage resources.

5. Based on the scope of this Proceeding and the importance of the JTS objectives, we find good cause to schedule multiple public comment hearings in this matter. Particularly given that this Proceeding will help advance a just transition for communities impacted by the accelerated retirements of coal-fired facilities, we find it important to schedule in-person public comment hearings in some of these communities.

6. We will conduct the first in-person public comment hearing in Pueblo, Colorado, on Thursday, April 17, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Hoag Recital Hall, CSU-Pueblo Campus, 2200 Bonforte Blvd, Pueblo, Colorado.

¹ See Decision No. C22-0459 at ¶ 52 issued in Proceeding No. 21A-0141E.

² In the Application, Public Service reaffirms its comment to provide community assistance payments to Pueblo County, Routt County, and Morgan County, as offset by new infrastructure investments in the communities. (Hr. Ex. 101, Ihle Direct, p. 46).

7. We will conduct the second in-person public comment hearing in Hayden, Colorado, on Thursday, May 1, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Hayden Center, 495 W. Jefferson Ave., Hayden, Colorado.

8. In addition, we will conduct a remote public comment hearing on Monday, April 28, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The remote public comment hearing will be held using the web-based video conferencing Zoom platform. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearing in-person. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearings, such as the sign-up sheet, and all relevant information on how to log on to the remote public comment hearings will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at: <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>.

9. The remote public comment hearing will be webcast on the Commission's website. This means that those persons wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearing may do so by watching the webcast. To observe the remote public comment hearing, enter this link in the web browser <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts> and select the audio or video option for Hearing Room A. The Commission encourages interested persons who do not wish to provide comments at the remote public comment hearing to observe it through the webcast rather than Zoom. Doing so will help minimize background noise during the hearing and may assist in the orderly progression of the hearing.

10. For all three public comment hearings, a court reporter will live transcribe each of the hearings to create a written record of the comments received. Commenters should give their full name, and spell it, before they give their comments. In general, commenters will be called to speak in the order in which they sign up. The presiding officer may adopt procedures and time limits for comments as necessary to ensure that all members of the public have opportunity to

comment, and the transcribed record is clear and understandable. Typical time limits range from one to three minutes for each commenter. To ensure the hearing time is used efficiently, commenters are requested to avoid repetitive comments that re-state filed written comments or repeat oral comments already provided at hearing. As discussed below, written public comment can be filed at any time in the Proceeding and will be afforded the same weight as oral comments. Finally, the purpose of a public comment hearing is to provide opportunity for members of the public to provide oral comments. To that end, parties to the Proceeding and their representatives are not permitted to present comments. Individuals may present comments on their own behalf.

11. The Commission will publicize the public comment hearings by press release, announce them on the Commission's public calendar, and make it known by other avenues to the extent resources are available.

12. Participating in the public comment hearing is not the only way to provide comments in this Proceeding. We encourage interested persons to provide written or oral public comments at any time this Proceeding is open. Please include "Proceeding No. 24A-0442E" in the public comments. Public comments can be provided by:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission's Electronic Filing System (E-Filings) at: <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>
- Submitting written comments using the Commission's online form or through email at: dora_puc_website@state.co.us. These comments will be posted in E-Filings for this Proceeding.
- Mailing comments to the Commission's offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (available in both English and Spanish options)

13. Finally, the Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings and meetings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with

disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Requests for such accommodations should be made at least one week prior to the event by completing the Language Accommodation Request Form available at the Commission's webcast page.³

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. An in-person public comment hearing in Pueblo, Colorado, is scheduled as follows:

DATE: April 17, 2025

TIME: 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Hoag Recital Hall (CSU-Pueblo Campus)
2200 Bonforte Blvd
Pueblo, CO 81001

2. A second in-person public comment hearing in Hayden, Colorado, is scheduled as follows:

DATE: May 1, 2025

TIME: 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: The Hayden Center
495 W. Jefferson Ave.
Hayden, CO 81639

3. An additional remote public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: April 28, 2025

TIME: 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

METHOD: By video conference or telephone using the zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the public comment hearing.

³ <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts>.

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

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 19, 2025.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners