



**Dora**  
Department of Regulatory Agencies

**Public Utilities Commission**

Ronald J. Binz, Chairman  
James K. Tarpey, Commissioner  
Matt Baker, Commissioner  
Doug Dean, Director

John W. Hickenlooper  
Governor

Barbara J. Kelley  
Executive Director

## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

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### **PUC CHAIRMAN TO LEAVE COMMISSION, ADVOCATE FOR CLEAN ENERGY POLICIES**

DENVER – Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Chairman Ron Binz announced today that he is leaving the PUC to resume his consulting practice, focusing on clean energy issues. Binz was appointed to the PUC by Gov. Bill Ritter, Jr. in January 2007. His term ended on January 10, 2011.

In a letter to Gov. John W. Hickenlooper, Binz said, “I am leaving the Commission to work with organizations that promote clean energy policies here and across the country. I plan to tell the Colorado story – about our success in moving forward on a clean energy agenda.”

“Our nation faces a huge challenge in decarbonizing its energy and transportation sectors – much bigger than the public understands,” Binz added. “I hope to contribute to the national policy discussion and help consumers prepare for the big changes ahead.”

Binz said he would remain at the Commission until his replacement is named, so that there could be a smooth transition. The governor’s office indicated that it prefers this arrangement as well.

A list of major decisions tackled by the Commission during Binz’s four years as Chairman is attached.

“Ron’s experience and depth of knowledge in regulatory matters have been extremely valuable and beneficial to the PUC,” Commissioner Jim Tarpey said. “We wish him the best of luck in all future endeavors.”

“We appreciate Ron’s tremendous service to the Commission and the state of Colorado. We’re sorry to see him go,” Commissioner Matt Baker said.



In addition to his duties as PUC Chairman, Binz serves as Chair of the Task Force on Climate Policy for NARUC, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. He is also the President of the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners.

Binz was Colorado Consumer Counsel, the state's utility consumer advocate, for 12 years from 1984 to 1995. Prior to being appointed to the Commission, Binz ran Public Policy Consulting, specializing in energy and telecommunications policy matters.

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*DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.*

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## **Major Actions by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission 2007-2011**

- 2007 Approval of the Sun-E Alamosa solar farm contract, U.S. largest solar farm at the time.
- 2007 Revision of the Electric Resource Planning Rules.
- 2007 New rules to implement the 20% Renewable Energy Standard.
- 2007 New rules to require utilities to significantly increase energy efficiency programs.
- 2008 Approval of the acquisition of Aquila by Black Hills Colorado Electric.
- 2008 Approval of Xcel Energy's new resource plan, including large amounts of new solar and wind capacity.
- 2009 Approval of Qwest's first rate increase in 13 years for basic phone service.
- 2009 Expansion of Denver taxi market by allowing Union Taxi to begin operations.
- 2009 Approval of increase in Xcel rates as Comanche 3 coal plant, approved in 2004, is brought into service.
- 2009 Agreement with Tri-State to implement a new resource planning process to incorporate input from outside parties.
- 2010 Implementation of tiered rates for residential electric customers of Xcel Energy.
- 2010 Reform of the Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism.
- 2010 Decision disallowing part of costs of Smart Grid City project.
- 2010 Implementation of the Clean Air Clean Jobs Act for Xcel and Black Hills, approving plans to close hundreds of megawatts of coal-based generation.
- 2010 Consideration of San Luis Valley power line for Tri-State and Xcel Energy (ongoing).
- 2010 Rule addressing consumer privacy and the smart grid (ongoing).