



## UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

7/8/2024

#### Attendance:

UCB: Bill Steele, Parks Barroso, Dave Kranz, Terry Hart, Josh Bufmack, and Sondra Young

Absent: Tina Francone, Hannah Wilks, and Ron Lehr

A quorum of UCB members was present.

UCA: Cindy Schonhaut, Hector Arreola, Scott England, Chris Neil, Ron Fernandez, Cory Skluzak, Leslie Henry-Sermos, and Kerry Kuykendoll

AG: Patrick Witterschein and Kate Crampton

MEETING START: 10:03 AM

#### I. WELCOME

- **Approve July Meeting Agenda and May Meeting Minutes**
  - Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to approve both the July meeting agenda and the May meeting minutes.
  - Parks Barroso motioned to approve both the July meeting agenda and the May meeting minutes. Terry Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### II. GUEST SPEAKER

- **Tom Plant, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission PUC**

Chair Bill Steele introduced Commissioner Plant who was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission on January 13, 2023, by Gov. Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on February 3, 2023. His term expires in January 2027.

Commissioner Plant previously served as director of the Governor's Energy Office during the Ritter administration, with principal responsibility for developing and implementing the Governor's policies for a new energy economy. He served as a Representative in the Colorado House of Representatives from 1998 through 2006, including two years as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and one year as Chairman of the Joint Budget Committee. Among the key pieces of legislation he sponsored were the Colorado Renewable Energy Act, and energy efficiency tax-incentive legislation.

Commissioner Plant started the discussion by giving appreciation to the UCA and the UCB for its efforts in informing the PUC despite competing objectives. The voice of the UCA and UCB is a very critical role in the success of the PUC and in the success of the state in meeting various energy objectives.

Commissioner Plant did not provide a presentation but instead had a roundtable with the Board to discuss topics including: the building of the Comanche Coal Plant during the Clean Air Clean Jobs Act, the transition to renewable energy, joining a regional transmission system in the future, the task of ensuring the energy and climate objectives of the state while mitigating risks for consumers, and the challenge of cross connection between various PUC proceedings and how the PUC manages this challenge.

Board discussion was focused on demands for energy storage, requiring data centers and large customers to build onsite energy storage, integrating AI to improve energy efficiency, stranded assets, the challenge of educating customers on the energy transition, and affordability efforts for underserved communities.

### **III. PENDING CASE STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

- **24AL-0275E: Black Hills Electric - Phase I & II Electric Rate Case: Scott England, UCA Rate / Financial Analyst**

Terry Hart shared that BHE's rate increase request is not well received in Pueblo and Cañon City. There is resistance and anger from the community on the proposed rate increase. Terry added that there is ongoing discussion within the community and local government to oppose the request.

The pending case strategy report can be found in the shared Google Drive.

### **IV. OTHER ISSUES**

- Cindy requested for Board members to provide suggestions for future guest speakers or topics for discussion.

## V. MISC. BUSINESS / UPDATES

- **Upcoming Meetings**

- Hector reminded the Board that meetings will now take place every other month through the end of the year with September and November meetings remaining.

- **Annual Board Training in September**

- Hector suggested that the required annual Board training occur during the September meeting, at the conclusion of the guest speaker's presentation.
- Bill requested Board members attend the September meeting and get the Board training completed.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

Bill Steele requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Hart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Parks Barroso seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 12:10 PM.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

As a reminder the Board meets each month during the legislative session, January through May, and every other month through the end of the year.

The next Board meeting along with the annual training is scheduled for Monday, September 9, 2024, at 10:00AM. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting. A Zoom link will be available to join virtually.

The Google UCB Shared Drive may be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c39luxCxDb8MWbYUrRB4Vhw6tEEm3uzO?usp=sharing>