



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Regulatory Agencies

Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate

## UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

3/11/2024

Attendance: UCB: Tina Francone, Terry Hart, Ron Lehr, Dave Kranz and Sondra Young

Absent: Bill Steele, Shawn Martini, Bonnie Trowbridge, Gretchen Stanford Hannah Wilks, and Parks Barroso

A quorum of UCB members was NOT present.

UCA: Cindy Schonhaut, Hector Arreola, Scott England, Chris Neil, and Ron Fernandez

AG: Tom Dixon and Greg Bunker

Start: 9:06 AM

#### I. WELCOME:

- **Approve January and February Meeting Minutes:**
  - A quorum was not present. The January and February meeting minutes were not approved. Approval of the minutes is tabled for the April meeting.
- **Approve February and March Meeting Agendas:**
  - A quorum was not present. The February and March meeting agendas were not approved. Approval of the agendas is tabled for the April meeting.

#### II. GUEST SPEAKER:

- **Rebecca White, Director, Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**

Ms. White was appointed to the PUC in May of 2023 and provided an overview of her extensive experience as a Division Director and Communications and Public Affairs Director at the Colo. Dept. of Transportation (CDOT), and various roles at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Ms. White shared with the Board, PUC's initiatives for 2024. Ms. White's main priority is filling 24 vacant positions at the PUC which include Chief Economist, Chief Engineer, Communications Director, Administrative Law Judges, and various administrative positions.

Other PUC initiatives include improved stakeholder relationships, addressing affordability, LEAP programs, gas price impacts on consumers, eliminating gas extension rebates, utility Gas Cost Adjustment Plans (GCA), and implementing SB23-291 into a number of active PUC proceedings.

Board discussion was focused on the PUC's role of balancing both utility and consumer interests, the development of Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), efforts to improve weatherization for low-income households, increasing renewable energy resources, and the consideration of public comments in PUC decisions.

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

- **24AL-0049G: PSCo Phase I Gas Rate Case - Cory Skluzak**

The pending case strategy summary and presentation are found in the Google UCB Shared Drive: 3/11/2024 UCB Meeting.

### **IV. OTHER ISSUES**

- **Legislative Updates**
  - Bill on Distributive Systems Planning - improve electrification efforts.
  - 2030 greenhouse gas reductions - extending goals to 2040.
  - Discussion on the future of gas planning, how to break down barriers to electrification.

### **V. NEW BUSINESS / MISC. UPDATES**

- Cindy Schonhaut informed the Board that PUC commissioners will be the guest speakers for the April and May UCB meetings.
- Tina Francone encouraged all Board members to attend Board meetings as required by their appointments to the Board. There has not been a quorum for the past two meetings.
- Ron Lehr suggested that Senators Fenberg or Hansen be invited as guest speakers for UCB meetings scheduled after the legislative session.
- The Board discussed efforts to improve UCB meeting attendance and participation. Board members suggested a survey for UCB members to provide feedback on their preferred day and time for UCB meetings.
  - Hector will forward a survey to Board members to provide input on their preferred days and times for UCB meetings.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:**

Terry Hart motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dave Kranz seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM.

**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 is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM. 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/1c39luxCxD8MWbYUrRB4Vhw6tEEm3uzO?usp=sharing>