



## UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

11/4/2024

Attendance:

UCB: Bill Steele, Terry Hart, Ron Lehr, Josh Bufmack and Parks Barroso

Absent: Tina Francone and Sondra Young

A quorum of UCB members was present.

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

AG: Tom Dixon, Patrick Witterschein and Kate Crampton

MEETING START: 10:03AM

#### I. WELCOME

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

## II. GUEST SPEAKER

- **Commissioner John Gavan, Former PUC Commissioner**

Comm'r John Gavan was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission on December 17, 2018, by Gov. John Hickenlooper and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on January 28, 2019. His term expired in January of 2023. Comm'r Gavan is originally from Paonia in western Colorado, was a member of the Board of Directors for Delta-Montrose Electric Association for five years prior to his appointment. He also has served on boards for Delta County Economic Development, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and Solar Energy International.

Comm'r Gavan provided a presentation on Electric Energy Resources on Colorado which gave an overview of the history of the electric grid, Colorado electric rates, utility regulation, electric generation and resources in Colorado, the transition to clean energy, data center driven load growth, and transmission planning in Colorado.

Board discussion was focused the impacts of data centers and artificial intelligence (AI) on energy consumption and load growth, concerns of constant utility rate increases, coal plant closures, and securitization.

Comm'r Gavan's presentation can be found in the shared UCB Google Drive folder 11/4/2024 UCB Meeting.

## III. PENDING CASE STRATEGY

- **24AL-0275E: Black Hills Electric Phase I & II Electric Rate Case - UCA Director Cindy Schonhaut**

UCA Director Cindy Schonhaut provided an overview of Black Hills Energy service territory. This territory includes Pueblo, CO and is one of the poorest areas of Colorado but also has the highest electric rates. Black Hills Electric has proposed an 18% increase in electric rates. This is significant as Pueblo has little to no economic development.

Pueblo residents receive gas service from Xcel Energy who also filed a natural gas rate increase concurrent with BHE's electric rate increase request.

Cindy shared that the UCA's position is to represent the public interest. Cindy filed testimony with the PUC requesting that there be no approval of a rate increase.

Parks Barroso provided also provided an overview of Western Resource Advocates (WRA) position in this proceeding.

#### IV. OTHER ISSUES / MISC. UPDATES

- **Review and Approve the 2025 UCB meeting Calendar**
  - Hector Arreola presented the proposed 2025 UCB Meeting Calendar
  - UCB Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to approve the proposed 2025 UCB Meeting Calendar.
    - Parks Barroso motioned to approve the proposed 2025 UCB Meeting Calendar
    - Terry Hart seconded the motion. The motion carried.
  
- **Annual Board and Cyber Security Training**
  - Hector reminded the Board to send him their annual Board training affidavits as soon as possible.
  - Hector reminded the Board to complete their annual Cyber Security training as soon as possible. Only a few Board members have completed it thus far.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

UCB Chair Bill Steele requested for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Parks seconded. The motion carried.

Meeting ended at: 11:58 AM

The next UCB meeting is on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 10:00 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/1c39luxCxDb8MWbYUrRB4Vhw6tEEm3uzO?usp=sharing>