



COLORADO

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate

UTILITY CONSUMERS' BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

5/13/2024

Attendance: UCB: Tina Francone, Hannah Wilks, Terry Hart, Ron Lehr, Gretchen Stanford, and Sondra Young

Absent: Bill Steele, Parks Barroso, Shawn Martini, and Dave Kranz

A quorum of UCB members was present.

UCA: Cindy Schonhaut, Hector Arreola, Scott England, Chris Neil, Ron Fernandez, Joseph Pereira, and Cory Skluzak

AG: Tom Dixon, Michel Singer Nelson, Patrick Witterschein, Kate Crampton, and Greg Bunker

Start: 9:03 AM

I. WELCOME:

- Approve May Meeting Agenda and April Meeting Minutes:
 - Vice Chair Tina Francone requested for a motion to approve both the May meeting agenda and the April meeting minutes.
 - Hannah Wilks motioned to approve. Terry Hart seconded the motion. The motion is carried.
- Board Expiring Terms
 - UCA Director Cindy Schonhaut shared that there are three expiring terms on July 1st. The expiring terms are Gretchen Stanford, Sondra Young, and Shawn Martini. Cindy gave her gratitude for their service on the UCB.

II. GUEST SPEAKER:

- **Meagan Gilman, Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission (PUC)**

Cindy introduced Commissioner Gilman and shared that Commissioner Gilman was first appointed to the PUC on March 6, 2020, by Gov. Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on March 13, 2020. Effective Jan. 13, 2024, Gilman will be reappointed to the PUC by Gov. Jared Polis with senate confirmation to follow. Her term expires January 2028.

Commissioner Gilman did not provide a presentation but instead had a roundtable with the Board to discuss topics including: SB21-272 (Measures to Modernize the Public Utilities Commission), beneficial electrification, Colorado's decarbonization goals and electrification efforts, affordability, and the PUC's outreach efforts on equity.

Commissioner Gilman shared her appreciation of the UCA and UCB's efforts in representing consumers.

Board discussion was focused on public comment hearings, virtual power plants and the role and impact of data centers on the electric grid.

III. PENDING CASE STRATEGY DISCUSSION

- **24AL-0049G: PSCo - Phase I Gas Rate Case; Cory Skluzak, UCA Rate Analyst**

Board discussion was focused on the impacts of fluctuating natural gas prices on consumers, the incentives for utilities to build infrastructure, and stranded assets.

The pending case strategy summary is found in the Shared Google Drive folder UCB Meeting 5/13/2024 UCB Meeting.

IV. OTHER ISSUES

- **Legislative Updates: Cindy Schonhaut, Director, UCA**
 - Cindy informed the Board that the legislative session concluded on May 8th.
 - Sen. Fenberg and Sen. Hansen sponsored and introduced a bill SB24-218 Distribution System Planning Bill. This bill gives utilities the ability to go to PUC to propose distribution system plans.
 - Bill will result in an upcoming rider, (line item) on utility bill.

V. Misc. Business / Updates

- UCA Operations Manager Hector Arreola that now that the legislative session has concluded, UCB meetings will take place every other month through the end of the year starting with the July 8th meeting.
- Hector also reminded the Board of the meeting start time of 10:00 AM starting with the July 8th meeting. The meeting calendar has been updated to reflect this time change.

MEETING ADJOURNED:

The meeting adjourned at: 10:58 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, July 8, 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/1c39luxCxD8MWbYUrRB4Vhw6tEEm3uzO?usp=sharing>