

Colorado PUC

Presentation to the Joint Transportation Committees

Doug Dean, Director



C O L O R A D O

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Public Utilities Commission

HISTORY

1885

Railway Commission established

1913

Public Utilities Act passed

- Granted authority over all utilities
- Foundation of PUC statutes today
- Created “Public Utilities Commission”

1954

PUC added to Constitution

1969

PUC type 1 transfer to DORA



COMMISSIONERS

3 COMMISSIONERS

- Appointed by the Governor
- Confirmed by majority vote of State Senate
- Serve **four-year** terms - may be reappointed
- No more than **two** commissioners from one political party
- **One** commissioner appointed Chairman



COMMISSIONERS

(D)



**Jeff
Ackermann
Chairman**

(R)

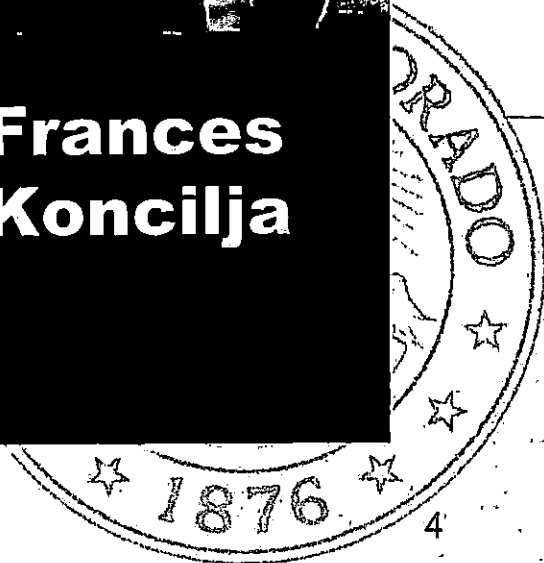


**Wendy
Moser**

(D)



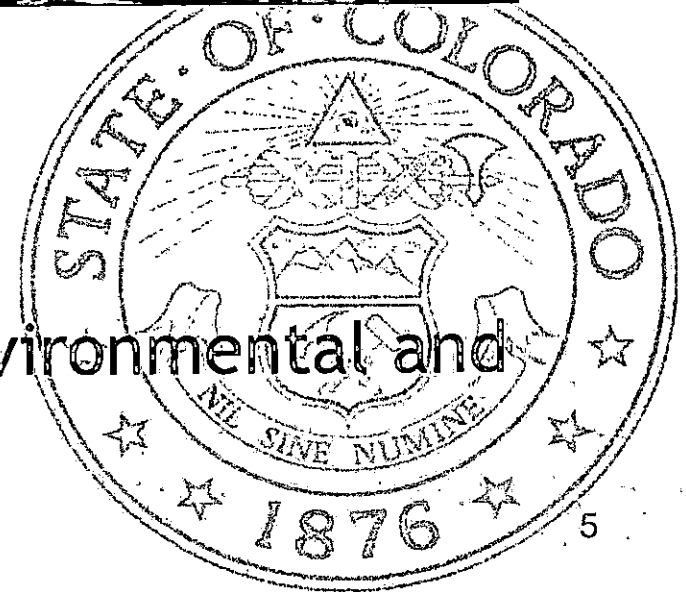
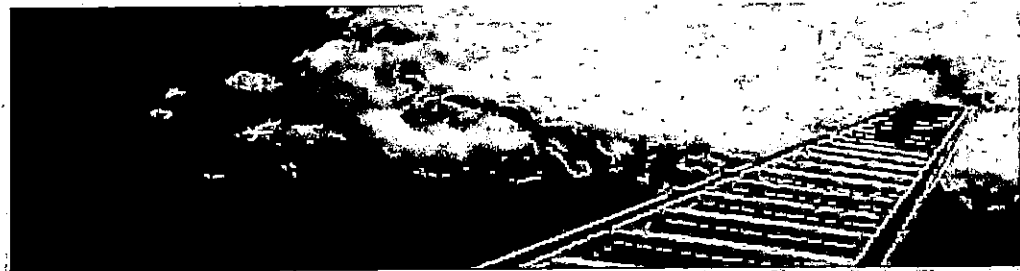
**Frances
Koncilja**



PUC MISSION

The Colorado PUC serves the public interest by effectively regulating utilities and facilities so that the people of Colorado receive:

- safe;
- reliable;
- reasonably-priced services;
- consistent with the economic, environmental and social values of our state.



DIRECTOR



RESPONSIBILITIES

- Manage operations of the PUC to carry out public utilities law pursuant to §40-2-103, C.R.S.
- Implement Commission policies, procedures and decisions
- Direct administrative functions and manage staff



PUC STRUCTURE

COMPRISED OF 97.0 FTE

Public Safety

- ▣ Transportation
- ▣ Rail/Transit Safety
- ▣ Gas Pipeline Safety

Fixed Utilities

- Energy (Electric & Gas)
- Telecommunications
- Water



STRUCTURE

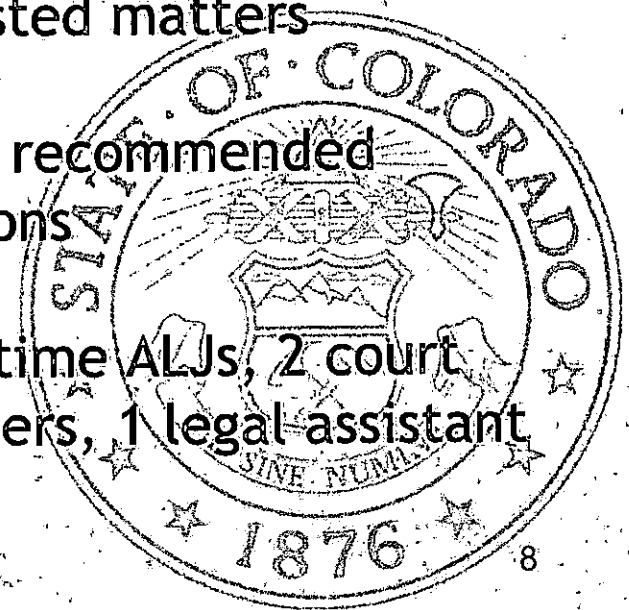
COMPRISED OF 97.0 FTE

Policy and External Affairs

- ▣ Policy Advisors
- ▣ Research and Emerging Issues
- ▣ External Affairs
- ▣ Administrative Support

Administrative Hearings

- Conducts hearing on contested matters
- Makes recommended decisions
- 5 full time ALJs, 2 court reporters, 1 legal assistant



DORA PERFORMANCE PLAN GOALS

99%

of informal complaints resolved in 15 days or less

100%

Commission meetings live streamed

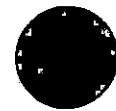
Increase # of meetings held outside metro area

Increase # of webinars

Quarterly

Consumer Alerts

Transportation Stakeholders



Implement customer satisfaction surveys



Continue Lean process improvements



Measure savings PUC obtains for consumers



ENERGY & ECONOMICS

Black Hills Energy

Request: \$8.5 million



Full recovery of HB 10-1365, aka the "Clean Air/Clean Jobs Act" Decision grants \$1.1 million. PUC decision upheld in District Court

Xcel Rush Creek Wind



600 MW in service October 3, 2018
Provides millions in savings to ratepayers

Boulder Municipalization

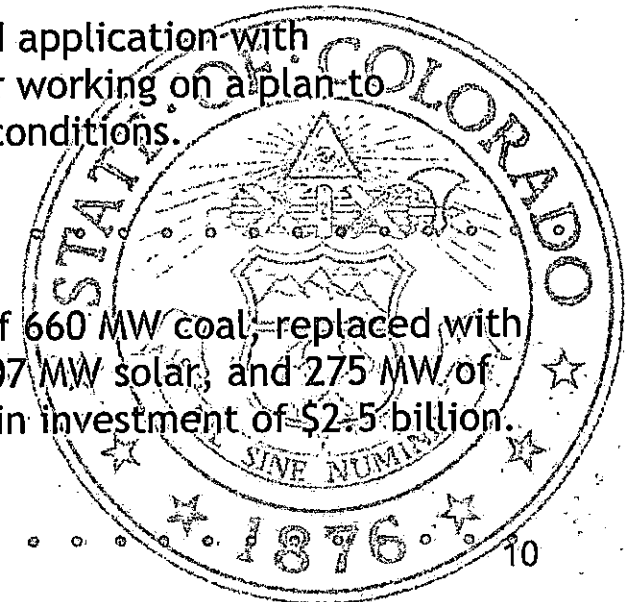


Commission granted application with conditions. Boulder working on a plan to comply with those conditions.

Colorado Energy Plan Portfolio



Early retirement of 660 MW coal, replaced with 1,130 MW wind; 707 MW solar; and 275 MW of storage; resulting in investment of \$2.5 billion.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Rules



911 Rules adopted
Reset HCSM distributions; 5 year plan reducing voice service funding for CenturyLink & increasing funding for broadband grants per SB 18-002

Completed Activities - 2018



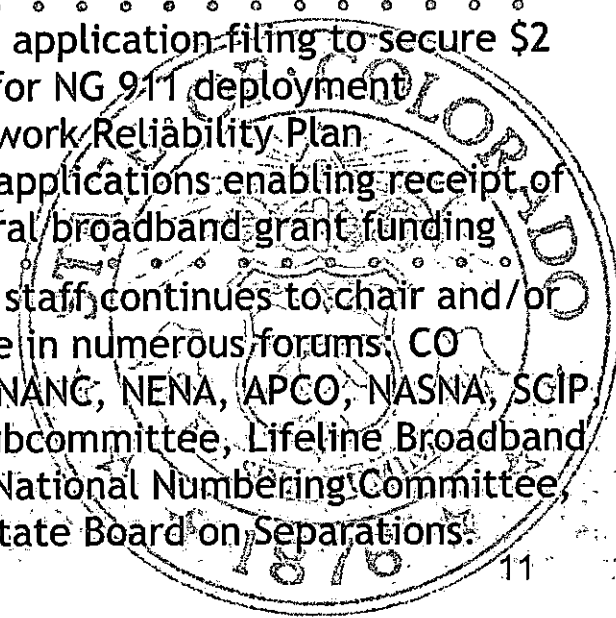
State of 911 Report submitted to General Assembly
\$10.8 million HCSM allocation for rural broadband
911 surcharge increases of \$37.1 million approved to upgrade local public safety equipment
\$1 million allocated in matching funds to enable federal 911 Grant Program application

Upcoming Activities - 2019



911 Grant Program application filing to secure \$2 million in funding for NG 911 deployment
911 Statewide Network Reliability Plan
CAFII Auction ETC applications enabling receipt of \$17.4 million in rural broadband grant funding
Telecom technical staff continues to chair and/or actively participate in numerous forums: CO Broadband Board, NANG, NENA, APCO, NASNA, SCIP, NARUC Telecom Subcommittee, Lifeline Broadband Joint Committee, National Numbering Committee, NASRA & Federal State Board on Separations.

Telecom Staff – Leaders at the State & National Level



TRANSPORTATION

Medicaid Client Transportation

Began 2017. Streamlined market entry. No longer regulated monopoly. Permits issued over-the-counter.

New Taxi Standards

2018 General Assembly created new category of Large Market Taxi companies with relaxed rate regulation. Rulemaking underway. 20 permits active or pending

Industry Collaboration

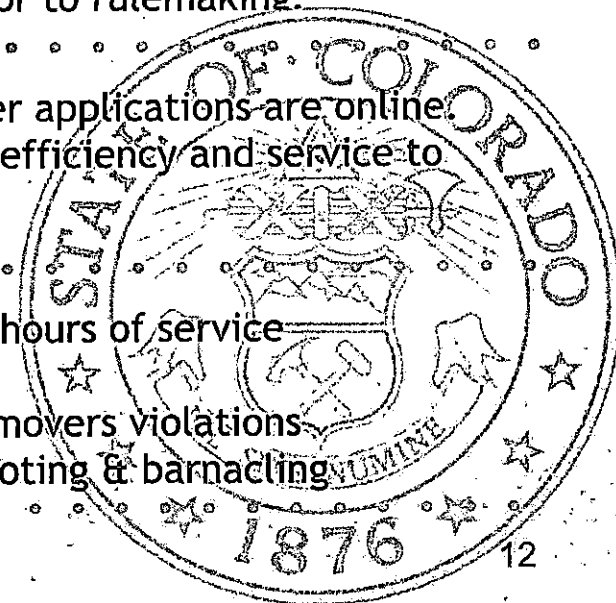
PUC staff seeks to collaborate with industry representatives prior to rulemaking.

PUC Online

All over-the-counter applications are online. Result is improved efficiency and service to regulated entities.

Challenges

Passenger carriers hours of service
Illegal tows
Households goods movers violations
On the horizon: Booting & barnacled



BOOTING/BARNACLING

Unregulated Activity



PUC starting to receive complaints. We have no statutory authority to regulate

No protection for consumers



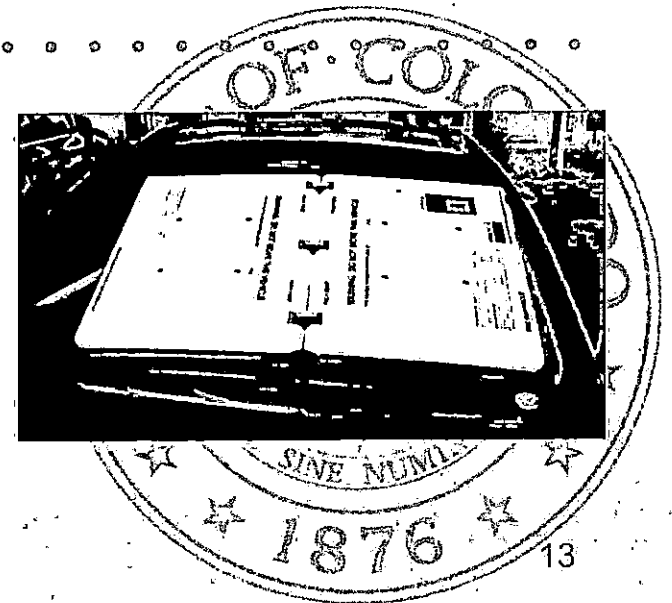
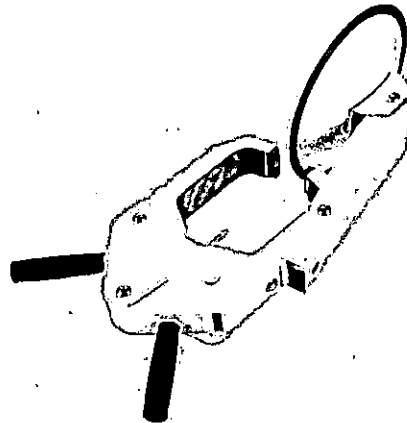
No one can limit rates for removal, enforce standards, required forms of payment to remove, etc. Law enforcement unclear.

Boots widely available



Available today for \$59.99 on Amazon!

Legislation needed to stop predatory practices



RAIL/TRANSIT SAFETY

Railroad /Crossing Safety



Working with rural communities to fund Highway-Rail Crossing Signalization Fund Projects

RTD FasTracks



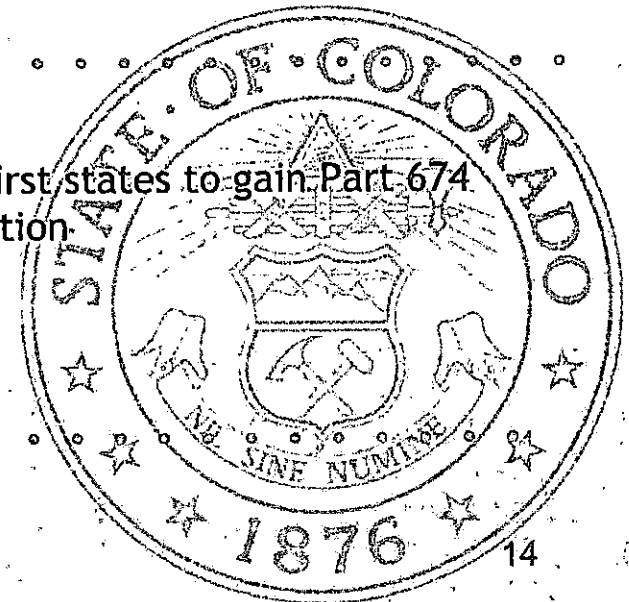
New technology challenges for new commuter rail and light rail corridors.

FRA Quiet Zone designation

State Safety Oversight Program



Colorado one of first states to gain Part 674 Program Certification



GAS PIPELINE SAFETY

Hazardous Gas Pipeline Safety Program

PUC Pipeline Safety Program (PSP) certified by U.S. DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

PUC PSP Jurisdictional Pipelines

Total of 59,600 combined miles of distribution, transmission, and gathering pipelines (natural gas)

PUC PSP Mission

Verification of pipeline operator compliance with PUC rules on pipeline operations, maintenance, construction and emergency response

Efforts and Enforcement

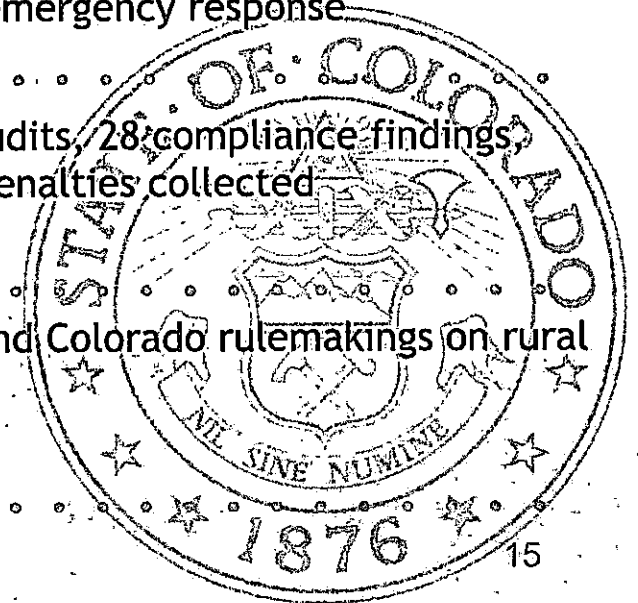
2018

157 inspections/audits, 28 compliance findings, \$173,530 in civil penalties collected

Current/Future Topics

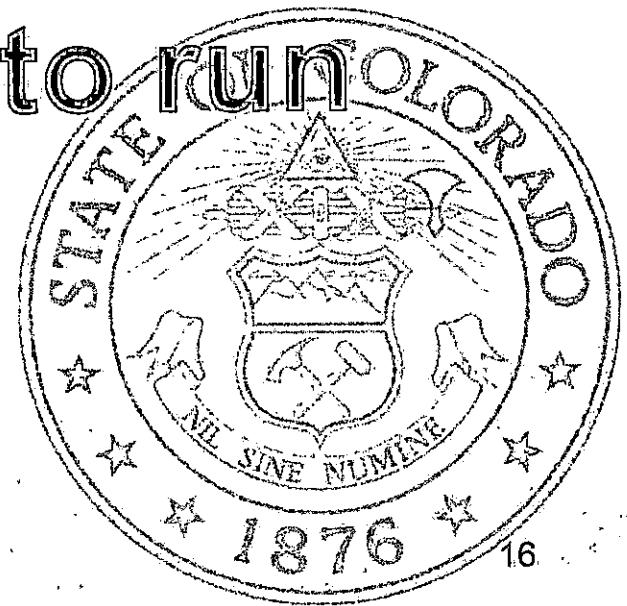
2019

Ongoing Federal and Colorado rulemakings on rural gathering lines



VALUE TO COLORADO

Over the past 5 years, the PUC has saved Colorado consumers **\$7.56 for every \$1 spent** to run the agency.

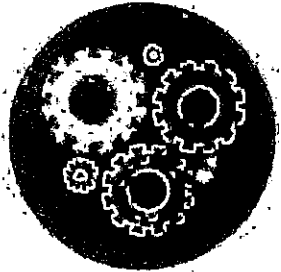


Tax Cut and Jobs Act

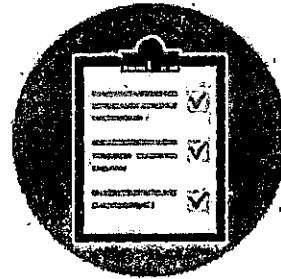
PUC staff worked with utilities to ensure benefits of TCJA were passed on to consumers. Over time, consumers will see a benefit of \$169 million.



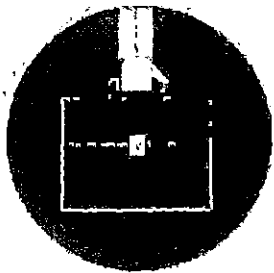
BY THE NUMBERS 2018



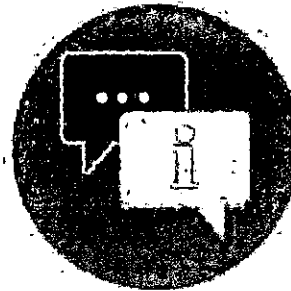
1,170
orders issued



652
Investigations
Completed



913
Proceedings



5,300
Public Comments



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

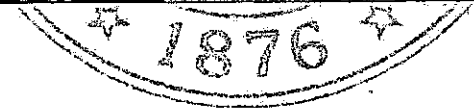


911 RULES RE-WRITE

- 14 formal workshops with industry and stakeholders over 5 months with 32 participating parties achieving consensus rules
- Permanent rules adopted, effective/published March, 2018

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- ▣ Meetings held with interested parties to discuss potential rules
- ▣ Quarterly meetings with transportation stakeholders to receive feedback



CHALLENGES

MOTOR CARRIER BUDGET

Motor Carrier Fund revenue is static

Industry cross-subsidization

Only fee PUC can change is vehicle ID fee

TELECOM BUDGET

Declining revenue base

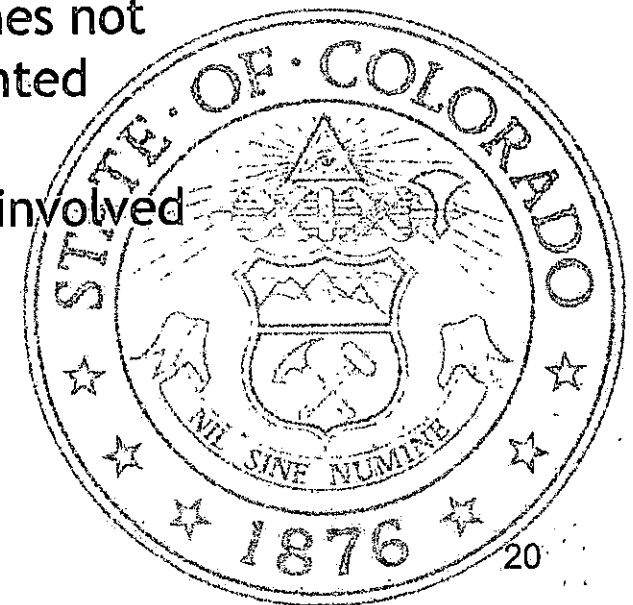
Statutory mandates remain

RTD EXPANSION ISSUES

Some A and all G Line crossings currently not functioning properly

Quiet zones not implemented

FRA also involved



Public Comment Wizard

Public has easy access to provide comments

Wizard leads public to right case by asking series of questions:

- Industry type
- Company
- Proceeding with descriptions in everyday language

Wizard allows comments directly into proceeding or common folder monitored by staff for submission into correct docket.

All submissions receive email back (if email provided) acknowledging receipt and explanation of how to follow the proceeding.

Implemented 4/16/18

734 comments through the Wizard so far!



QUESTIONS?



www.colorado.gov/dora/puc