

Colorado PUC

Presentation to Joint Oversight Committee

Doug Dean, Director



COLORADO

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)



**Joshua
Epel
Chairman**

(R)



**Glenn
Vaad**

(D)



**Frances
Koncilja**

DIRECTOR

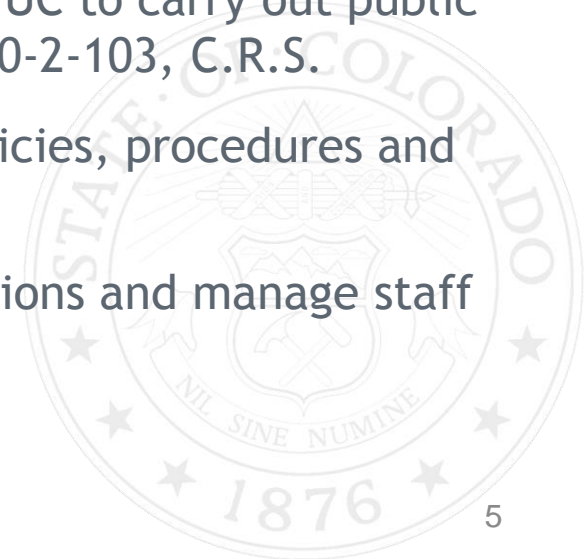


APPOINTMENT

Appointed by Executive Director of DORA with approval of Commissioners

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 93.7 FTE IN 11 SECTIONS

- Transportation
- Rail/Transit Safety
- External Affairs
- Energy
- Economics, Energy & Water
- Gas Pipeline Safety
- Regulatory & Legal Affairs & Administrative Support
- Telecommunications
- Policy Advisors
- Administrative Hearings
- Research and Emerging Issues



DORA PERFORMANCE PLAN GOALS

100%

Online
Transportation
Permits

99%

of informal
complaints
resolved in 15 days
or less

99%

of non-contested
rate filings
resolved in 15 days
or less

10%

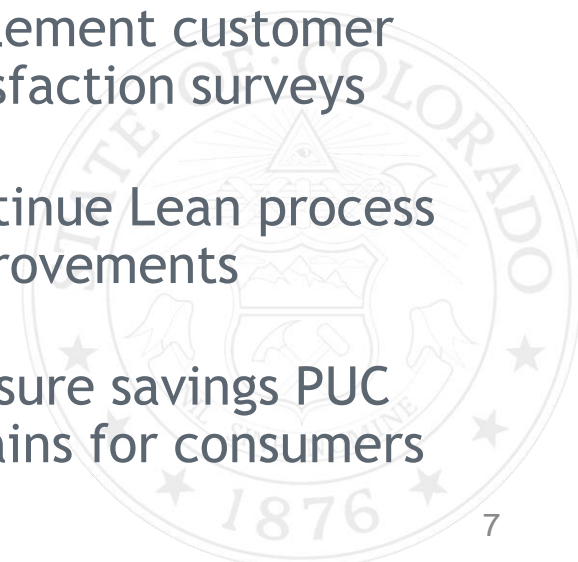
Increase number
of webinars

Quarterly Publications

Common Practice Advisories

Consumer Alerts

- 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”

Pending decision grants \$1.1 million

Xcel Rush Creek Wind



\$1 billion + investment in Colorado

Provides millions in savings to ratepayers

Xcel multi-case

*Rate design, Solar*Connect, RES*



Settlement supported by utility, staff of the Commission, environmentalists, renewables advocates, and consumer groups

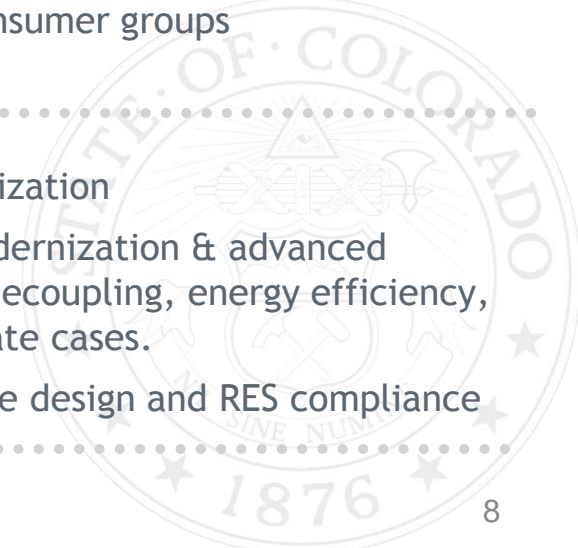
Upcoming



Boulder municipalization

Xcel ERP, grid modernization & advanced meters, revenue decoupling, energy efficiency, gas and electric rate cases.

BHE “Phase II” rate design and RES compliance



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Comprehensive Multi-year HCSM Settlement Agreement

46 wire center exchanges declared competitive & 4 year settlement with CTL & CTA, reducing payments by approximately 40 million.

Effective Competition District Court Challenge

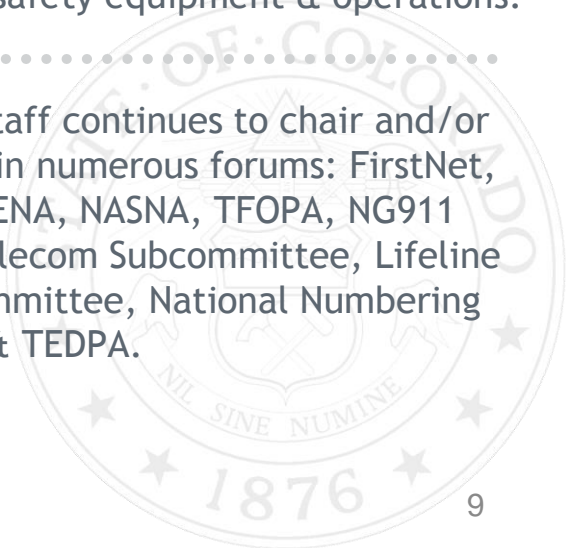
This action has delayed the PUC in distributing HCSM funds to the Broadband Deployment Board

911 Surcharge Increases

Approved multiple 911 Emergency Telephone Authority surcharge applications expected to generate \$3M to upgrade local public safety equipment & operations.

Telecom Staff – Leaders at the State & National Level

Telecom technical staff continues to chair and/or actively participate in numerous forums: FirstNet, Broadband Board, NENA, NASNA, TFOPA, NG911 Coalition, NARUC Telecom Subcommittee, Lifeline Broadband Joint Committee, National Numbering Committee, NASRA & TEDPA.



TRANSPORTATION

Medicaid Client Transportation



New type of service. Streamlined market entry. No longer regulated monopoly. Permits issued over-the-counter.

New Taxi Companies



Modified Entry standards result in PUC issuing Certificates to two new taxi companies operating in the metro area.

Industry Collaboration



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

PUC Online

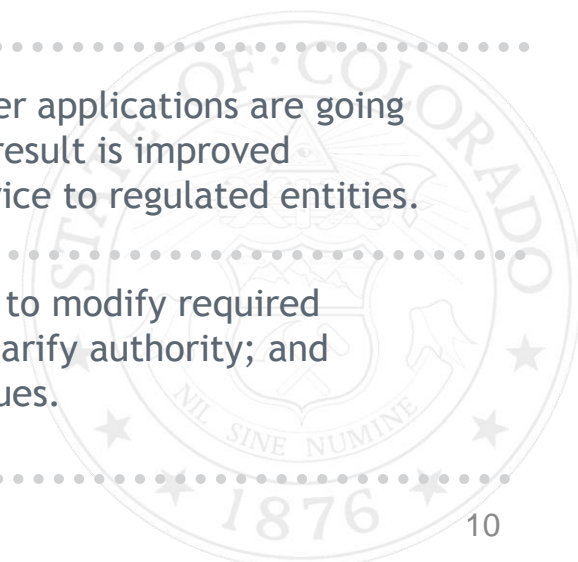


All over-the-counter applications are going on line. Expected result is improved efficiency and service to regulated entities.

2017 Legislative Proposal



Seeking legislation to modify required burden of proof; clarify authority; and resolve funding issues.



RAIL/TRANSIT SAFETY

Railroad rulemaking/Crossing Safety



Establishing minimum crossing safety standards, implementing requirements of HB 13-1103, HB 16-1186, SB 16-87 and the 2009 MUTCD; coordination with CDOT

RTD FasTracks



New technology challenges for new commuter rail and light rail corridors. Two new corridors in service in 2016 and two in 2017

State Safety Oversight Program Challenges



Working on FTA SSO Grant Application with grant match identified in HB 16-1186. New staff will be hired once grant is awarded.



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 59,510 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

2016



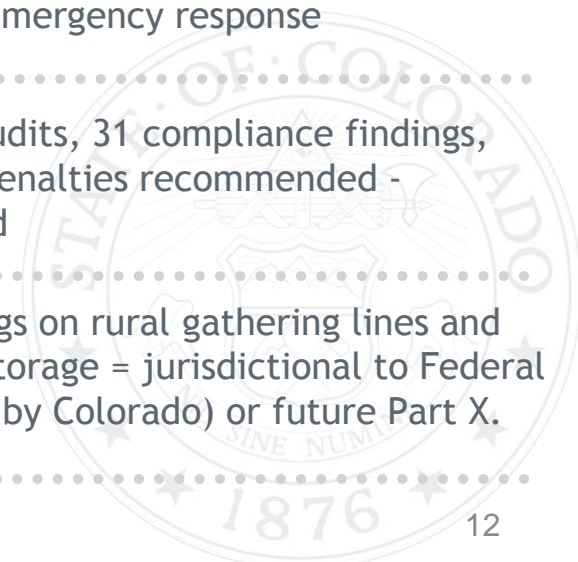
241 inspections/audits, 31 compliance findings, \$350,000 in civil penalties recommended - \$225,000 collected

Current/Future Topics

2017



Federal rulemakings on rural gathering lines and underground gas storage = jurisdictional to Federal Part 192 (adopted by Colorado) or future Part X.



VALUE TO COLORADO

Over the past 5 years, the PUC has saved Colorado consumers **\$8.97 for every \$1 spent** to run the agency.



BY THE NUMBERS

FY 2015/2016



1,338
orders issued



397
Investigations
Completed



951
Proceedings



321
separate topics
addressed from
Public Comments



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

TELECOM RULES RE-WRITE



- 3 formal workshops with industry and stakeholders and 12 working group sessions across 3 stakeholder groups
- Recommended rules to be issued January 2017

TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

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



1876

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



LOW INCOME RULES

- Utilities, state agencies, EOC engaged in consensus effort to make more efficient
- New rules approved with minimum administrative burden

TELECOM RELAY SERVICE RULES

- Result of HB 16-1414
- Completed rulemaking in less than 3 months. Stabilized program funding. Provided significant guidance to DOR to implement pre-paid wireless TRS rules.



CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

MOTOR CARRIER BUDGET

Motor Carrier Fund
revenue is static

Industry cross-
subsidization

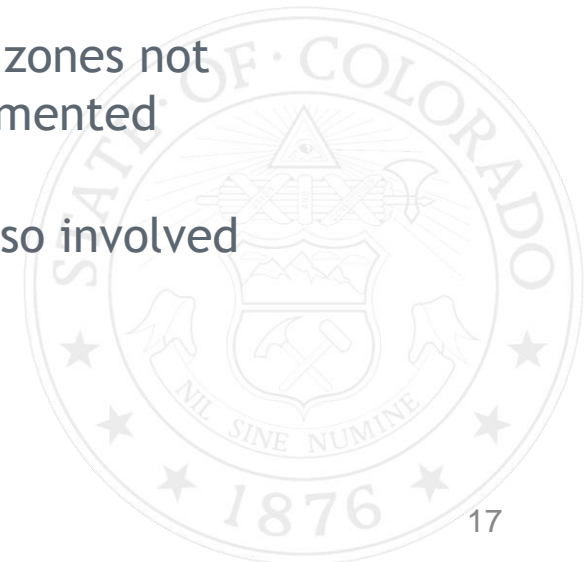
Only fee PUC can
change is vehicle ID fee

RTD EXPANSION ISSUES

A Line crossings
currently not
functioning properly

Quiet zones not
implemented

FTA also involved



QUESTIONS?



[www. colorado.gov/dora/puc](http://www.colorado.gov/dora/puc)