

Colorado PUC

Presentation to the Joint Energy Committees

Doug Dean, Director



COLORADO

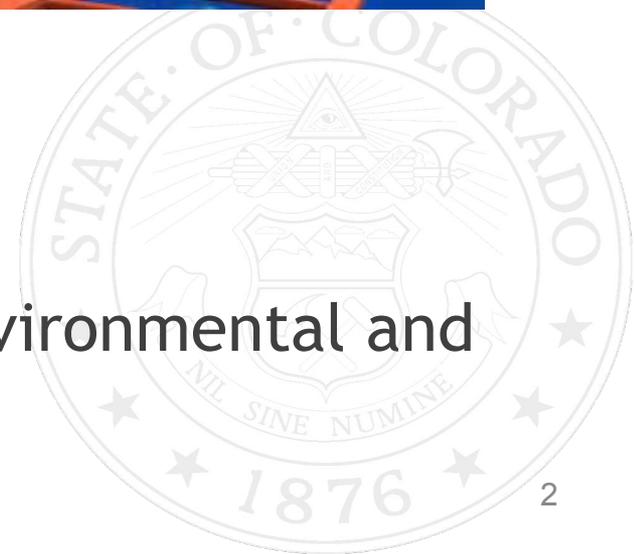
**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Public Utilities Commission

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.



VISION STATEMENT

The PUC's vision for the next 3-5 years is to establish itself as a well-respected leading authority in energy, telecommunications, and safety policy at the local, state, regional and national levels.

- Recruit talented staff
- Modernize electronic filings system
- Regular stakeholder engagement



HISTORY

1885

Railway Commission established

1913

Public Utilities Act passed

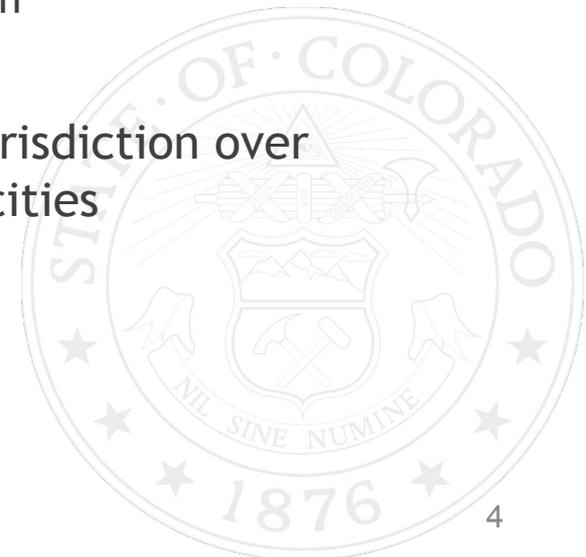
- Granted authority over all utilities
- Foundation of PUC statutes today
- Created “Public Utilities Commission”

1954

PUC added to Constitution to clarify jurisdiction over Investor-Owned Utilities in home rule cities

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



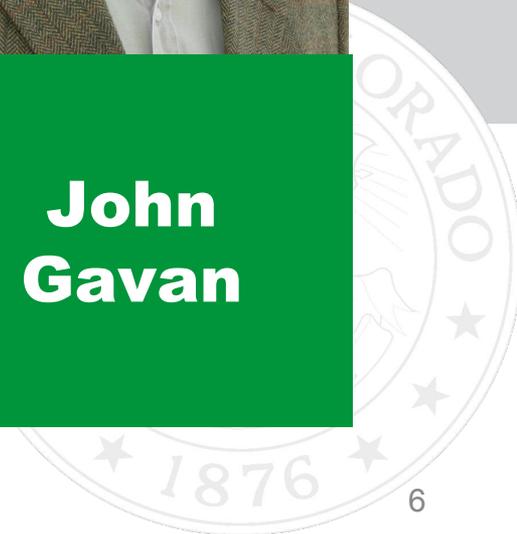
**Jeff
Ackermann
Chairman**



**Frances
Koncilja**



**John
Gavan**



DIRECTOR



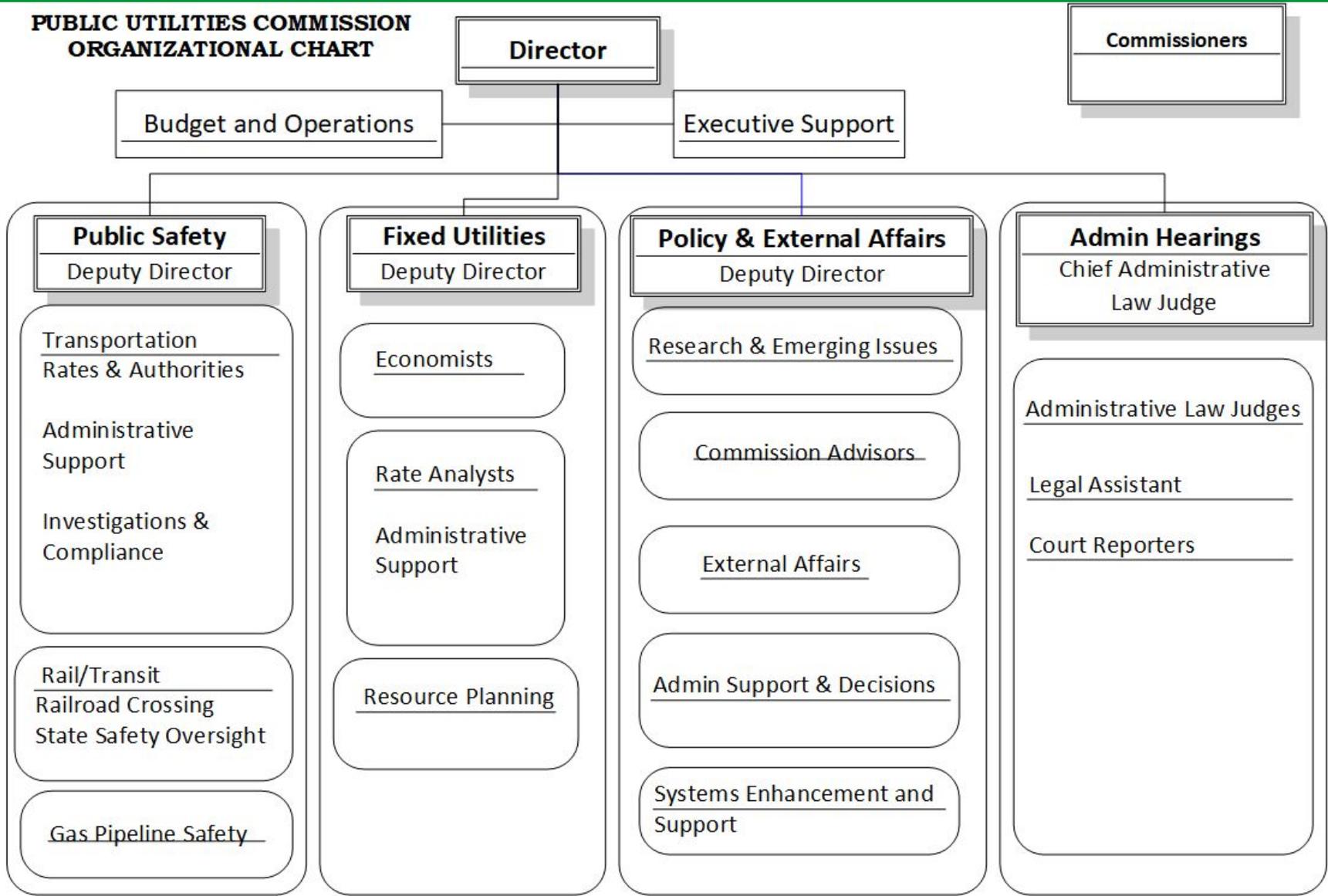
RESPONSIBILITIES

- 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



STRUCTURE

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



PUC STRUCTURE

COMPRISED OF 98.8 FTE

Public Safety

- Transportation
- Rail/Transit Safety
- Gas Pipeline Safety

Fixed Utilities

- Energy (Electric & Gas)
- Telecommunications
- Water



PUC STRUCTURE

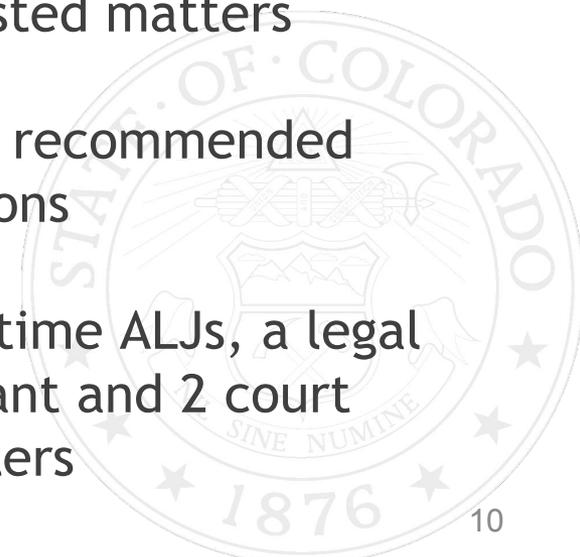
COMPRISED OF 98.8 FTE

Policy and External Affairs

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

Administrative Hearings

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



DORA PERFORMANCE PLAN GOALS

SPI 1

Consistent Public Protection Through Effective Enforcement & Regulatory Activities

Deliver timely resolution of complaints and investigations

- 99% of informal complaints resolved in 15 days or less

Protection of Consumers through effective enforcement

- Transportation Safety and Compliance Reviews
- Gas pipeline safety inspections

SPI 2

Enhanced Education & Outreach to Ensure Accessibility

Strengthen statewide and online opportunities for Coloradans to interact with DORA

- Consumer alerts/advisories disseminated
- 100% of Commission meetings live streamed
- Administrative Law Judge educational events

Online outreach

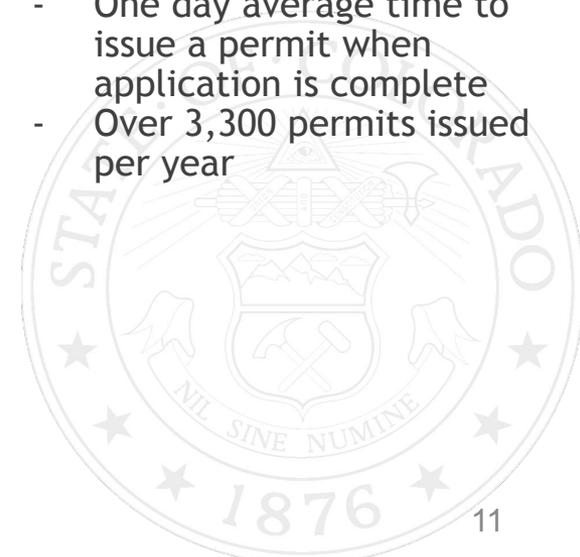
- Webinars hosted

SPI 3

Bold Improvements to Better Serve Regulated Entities

Provide simple and fast licensing to Colorado Professionals

- One day average time to issue a permit when application is complete
- Over 3,300 permits issued per year



PUC MISSION - SAFETY

Energy



Approved accelerated cost recovery for over \$1 billion in safety related gas pipeline capital investments. Approved funding for wildfire mitigation activities.

Telecommunications



Public Utilities Commission awarded \$2.4 million in federal funds for upgrading the state's 911 network. PUC added \$1.65 million matching funds from the Certified Performance Assurance Plan Tier 2 fund as matching funds, totaling \$4 million.

Transportation



Settlements with Uber and Lyft dramatically improve background checks moving recurring background checks from every 5 years to annual checks improving safety for consumers.

Hazardous Gas Pipeline Safety Program

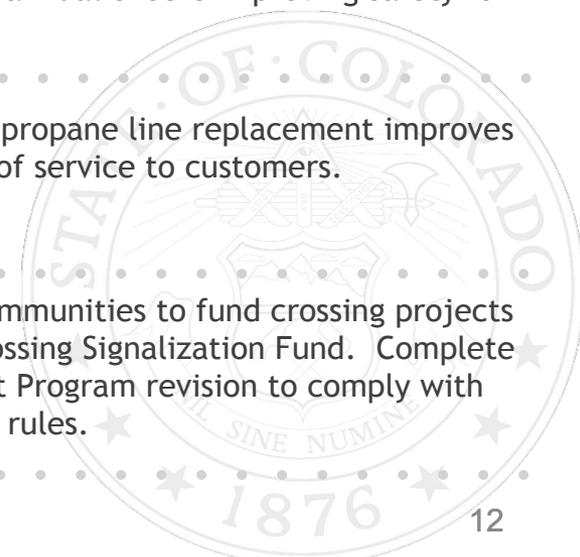


Colorado Natural Gas propane line replacement improves safety and reliability of service to customers.

Railroad Crossing Safety/SSO Program



Working with rural communities to fund crossing projects with Highway-Rail Crossing Signalization Fund. Complete State Safety Oversight Program revision to comply with Part 673 and Part 674 rules.



PUC MISSION - RELIABILITY

Energy



Electric resource plans, electric transmission plans, gas pipeline safety replacement plans, and quality of service plans measure and address utility adequacy and reliability.

Telecommunications



Commission rules require providers of switched access service, basic emergency service, and basic service provided by High Cost Support Mechanism recipients to adhere to federal & state standards for quality of service.

Transportation



Safety Compliance Reviews ensure drivers and vehicles meet minimum safety standards and are reliable for consumers and gives consumers multiple choices (e.g., Transportation Network Companies, taxi's, limos).

Hazardous Gas Pipeline Safety Program

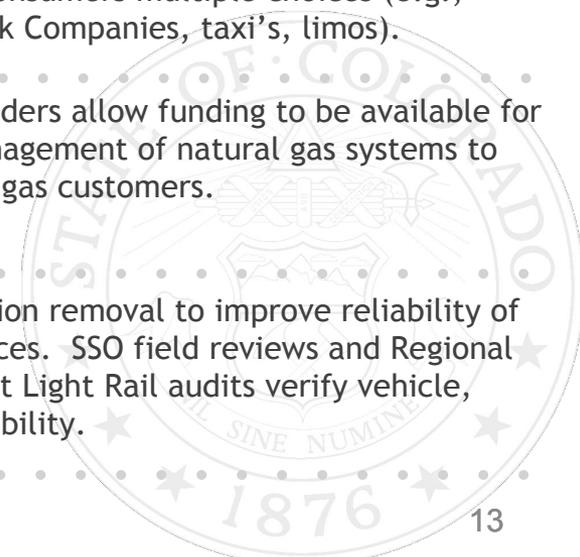


Pipeline safety rate riders allow funding to be available for risk and integrity management of natural gas systems to improve reliability to gas customers.

Railroad Crossing Safety/SSO Program



Rules require vegetation removal to improve reliability of crossing warning devices. SSO field reviews and Regional Transportation District Light Rail audits verify vehicle, track, and signal reliability.



PUC MISSION - REASONABLY-PRICED SERVICE

Energy



Commission completed adjudicated rate setting proceedings for Public Service Company of Colorado-Electric and Black Hills Colorado Gas in 2019.

Telecommunications

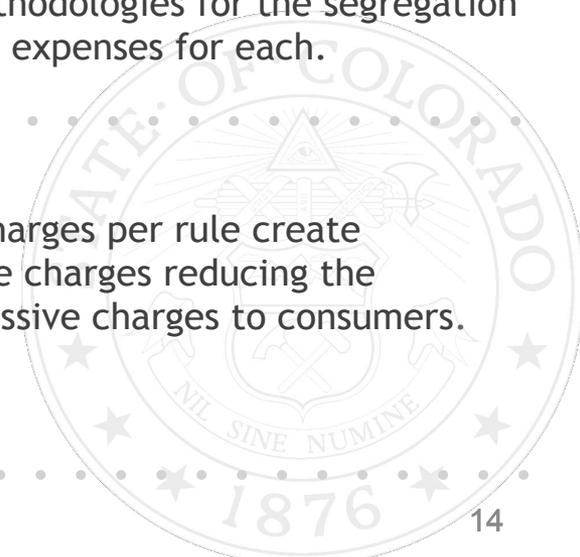


Commission rules prescribe methodologies that prevent deregulated services from being subsidized by regulated services and prescribe cost-allocation methodologies for the segregation of investments and expenses for each.

Transportation



Booting release charges per rule create reasonable release charges reducing the possibility of excessive charges to consumers.



PUC MISSION - CONSISTENCY WITH ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL VALUES OF COLORADO

Senate Bill 19-236

Colorado Transmission Coordination Act

Performance Based Ratemaking

Distribution System Planning

Vehicle Booting Companies

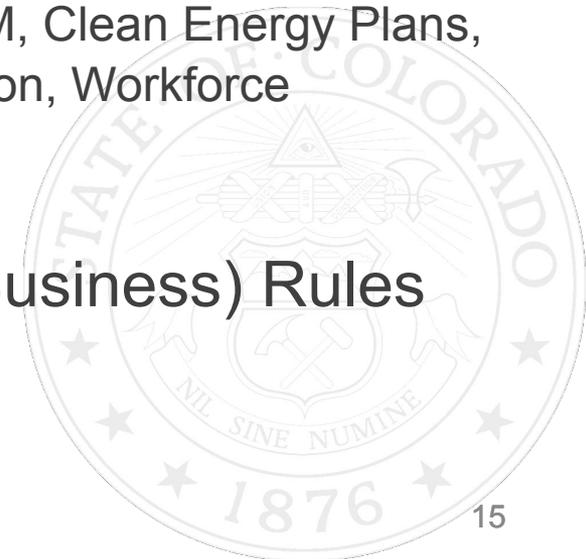
Wholesale Cooperatives Resource Planning

Electric Rulemaking - Cost of Carbon, BVEM, Clean Energy Plans, Customer-sited Renewables, Beneficial Electrification, Workforce Transition

Railroad Fining Authority

Changes to Practice and Procedure (Business) Rules

Electricity Rates Survey



PUC MISSION - CONSISTENCY WITH ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL VALUES OF COLORADO

Senate Bill 19-236 (cont.)

VEHICLE BOOTING STATUS AND CASH FUND BUDGET

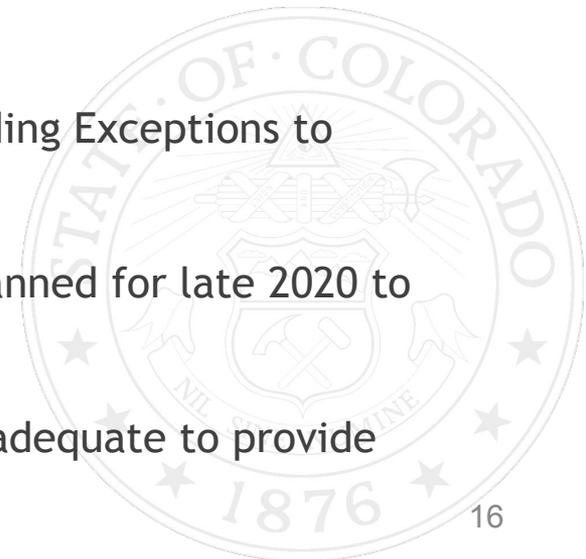
Booting legislation was initially discussed at the towing stakeholder meeting in May 2019.

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sent to affected stakeholders in September 2019. Public Comment hearing held in October 2019.

Temporary rules issued December 2019. Final rules are pending Exceptions to Recommended Decision.

Booting stakeholder meeting to discuss rule effectiveness planned for late 2020 to early 2021.

Concern on cash fund - monitoring to ensure that funding is adequate to provide resources for enforcement.



PUC MISSION - CONSISTENCY WITH ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL VALUES OF COLORADO

Senate Bill 19-77

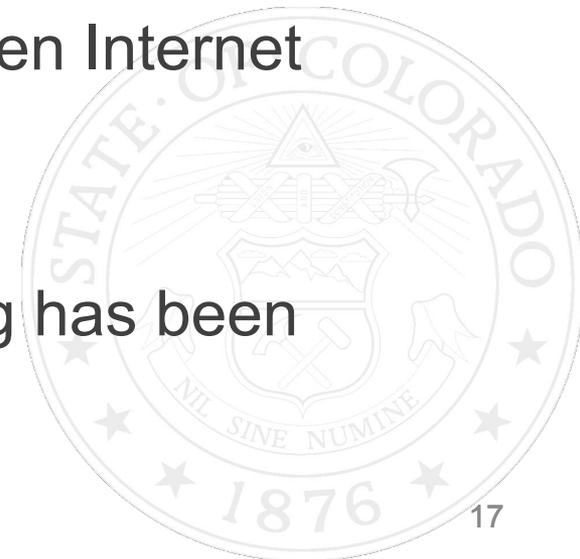
Electric Vehicle Infrastructure: Commercial Charging Rates Tariff Approved and a Charging Infrastructure Buildout Plan has been initiated

Senate Bill 19-78

Telecommunications Net Neutrality/Open Internet

House Bill 19-1003

Community Solar Gardens Rulemaking has been opened and is in process



2019 RULEMAKING

- February 2019 - Amend Electric Resource Planning Rules - including SB19-236
- July 2019 - Resource Planning for Wholesale Cooperatives - SB19-236
- August 2019 - Net Neutrality Telecommunications - SB19-078
- September 2019 - Amendments to Practice and Procedure - including SB19-236
- September 2019 - Permanent Rules for Vehicle Booting Regulation- SB19-236
- October 2019 - Temp Rules for Low-Income Participation
- November 2019 - Community Solar Gardens - HB19-1003
- November 2019 - Permanent Rules for Low-Income Participation
- November 2019 - Electric Relating to Interconnection - SB17-271 and SB19-236
- December 2019 - Gas Pipeline Safety
- December 2019 - Amendments to Towing Rules
- December 2019 - Temp Rules for Vehicle Booting Regulation - SB19-236

2020 RULEMAKING

Continuing Rulemaking:

Gas Pipeline Safety - Hearing scheduled for February 10, 2020

Community Solar Gardens - Hearing held January 13, 2020

Electric Interconnection - Hearing scheduled for February 3, 2020

Electric Resource Planning - Supplemental Rules expected - Hearing April 2020

New rulemaking:

Rail - Incorporation of Rail Fining Authority - SB19-236

Water - General Review and changes as result of SB18-134

Transportation - Review of taxi rules from stakeholders

Distribution System Planning Electric - SB19-236

GAS PIPELINE SAFETY BUDGET REQUEST

Governor's Request: Additional 4.0 FTE pipeline safety inspectors, accompanying vehicles and equipment. 2 FTE Front-Range based, 2 Mountain/Western Slope. All positions inspection/audit related, specifically in field operations, construction and repair.

Goal: Increase pipeline operator compliance through additional inspection, outreach and education.

Stakeholder Interaction/Outreach: Utilize DORA public outreach tools to develop routine and readily-accessible educational messages on pipeline safety.

Continue to develop relationship with other state and federal government agencies; implement MOUs where appropriate.

Develop a more direct relationship with Colorado fire districts regarding pipeline release emergency response.

VALUE TO COLORADO

Over the past 5 years, the PUC has saved Colorado consumers **\$7.57 for every \$1 spent** to run the agency.



Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach



Public Comments

- 1,800+ Public Comments received
- Public Comment Wizard guides public to correct docket through series of questions - sends an email back to commenter describing how to follow the proceeding

[Public Comment Wizard](#)

Outreach

- 2019 Legislative Implementation on PUC website - updates and links to all proceedings
[Legislation Implementation](#)
- Quarterly meetings with transportation stakeholders to receive feedback
- 19 New Releases, 4 Consumer Advisories, 3 Connections Newsletters



CHALLENGES

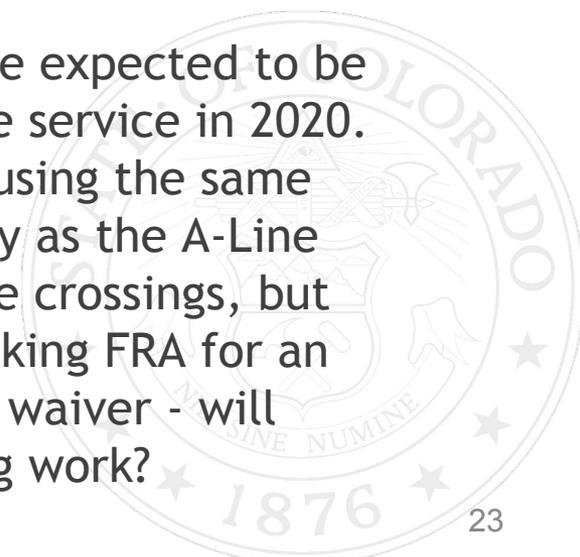
FIXED UTILITY FUND AND MOTOR CARRIER FUND

PUC continually monitors revenue limitations created by statutory caps on fees in the fixed utility and motor carrier program areas.

RAILROAD ISSUES

Railroads are delaying safety improvement projects in jurisdictions seeking quiet zone status from the Federal Railroad Administration.

RTD N-Line expected to be in revenue service in 2020. They are using the same technology as the A-Line and G-Line crossings, but are not asking FRA for an operation waiver - will everything work?



QUESTIONS?



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