Colorado PUC

Presentation to the Joint Energy Committees

Doug Dean, Director

COLORADO
Department of Regulatory Agencies
Public Utilities Commission
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.
PUC MISSION

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

VISION STATEMENT
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
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

Director

Budget and Operations

Executive Support

Commissioners

Public Safety
Deputy Director

Transportation
Rates & Authorities
Administrative Support
Investigations & Compliance

Fixed Utilities
Deputy Director

Economists
Rate Analysts
Administrative Support
Resource Planning

Policy & External Affairs
Deputy Director

Research & Emerging Issues
Commission Advisors
External Affairs
Admin Support & Decisions
Systems Enhancement and Support

Admin Hearings
Chief Administrative Law Judge

Administrative Law Judges
Legal Assistant
Court Reporters
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

**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
- Online outreach
  - Webinars hosted
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.
Electric resource plans, electric transmission plans, gas pipeline safety replacement plans, and quality of service plans measure and address utility adequacy and reliability.

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.

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).

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

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

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.

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

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

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