



**CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, CITY HALL,
#1 CITY HALL PLACE, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003.**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024
5:30 PM**

Individuals Requiring Special Accommodations Should Notify the City's ADA Coordinator at (719) 553-2295 by Noon on the Friday Preceding the Meeting.

Executive Committee meetings are special meetings of the City Council and are informal Council meetings for the purpose of receiving information and discussion among Council Members; no official action is taken at such meetings. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATIONS

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| A. CITY UPDATE | 5:30 p.m. |
| Brian McCain, Chief of Staff | |
| 5 minute presentation | |
| B. LOBBYIST UPDATE | 5:35 p.m. |
| Gil Romero - Capital Success Group | |
| 15 minute presentation | |
| C. HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION | 6:00 p.m. |
| Dawn Tripp-Sena - Interim Chair | |
| Richard Blair - Treasurer | |
| 15 minute presentation | |
| D. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION - BLACK HILLS RATE INCREASE | 6:25 p.m. |
| Rebecca White - PUC Director | |
| Joe Pereira - Deputy Director-Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate | |
| 20 minute presentation | |

ADJOURNMENT

PUEBLO HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Dawn Tripp-Sena, Interim Chair
Richard Blair, Treasurer

October 7, 2024



The Pueblo Human Relations Commission (PHRC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2001. It was created by an Intergovernmental agreement between the City of Pueblo and Pueblo County. “The purpose of which is to serve as an instrumentality through which the City and county of Pueblo may officially encourage and bring about mutual understanding and respect for all persons of any marginalized groups including but not limited to; age, race, creed, color, disability, gender, sexual orientation of national origin; throughout Pueblo County, and help give effect to equal rights for all persons as assured by the federal and state constitutions and laws.”

Functions of the Commission Include:

- To foster the community's respect for and understanding of all marginalized groups of the City and County.
- To cooperate with state and federal agencies and non governmental organizations performing similar functions; to make such investigations and studies in the field of human relations as in the judgement of the Commission will aid in effectuating its general purpose.
- To recommend programs, activities and legislation to the City and County.
- To engage in outreach, education, and cooperation with citizens of the City and County of Pueblo, in furtherance of the commission's purpose.

City Appointments

Richard Blair

Term Expires
December 31, 2024

Vacant

Term Expires
December 31, 2024

Erik Segall

Term Expires
December 31, 2024

Benjamin Caldera

Term Expires
December 31, 2025

Jennifer Horn

Term Expires
December 31, 2024



County Appointments

Vacant

Term Expires
December 31, 2024

Paz Hall

Term Expires
December 31, 2025

Acasha Kerr

Term Expires
December 31, 2025

Adelia Tripp-Sena

Term Expires
December 31, 2025

Corrina Bradley

Term Expires
December 31, 2024



Joint Appointments

Andrea Naglich

Term Expires
December 31, 2026

Kennedy Pugh

Term Expires
December 31, 2027

Claire Schad

Term Expires
December 31, 2027

Anna Jones

Vacant



Youth Appointment

Riya Singh

Term Expires
December 31, 2024

► Early activities

- SUMMIT ON RACE RELATIONS

COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATIONS

PUEBLO CITY SCHOOLS & VETERANS FORUMS

LAW ENFORCEMENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

JUSTICE LEAGUE

MEDIATION ACTIVITIES

► Recent Activities

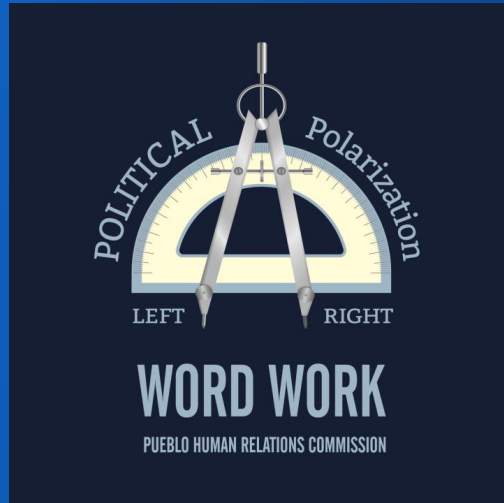
DURING COVID, THE COMMISSION'S IN PERSON ACTIVITIES WERE REDUCED. THE COMMISSION DID LAUNCH A PROJECT OF CREATING AND PUBLISHING A CALENDAR FEATURING ART WORK BY LOCAL YOUTH WHICH FOCUSED ON HUMAN RELATIONS.

DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE COMMISSION RESPONDED AND SUPPORTED PUEBLO CITIZENS WHO FILED REQUESTS FOR HELP WITH RACE AND DISCRIMINATION ISSUES.

CREATED A WEBSITE DESIGNED TO ASSIST PUEBLO CITIZENS IN SEARCHING FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ASSISTANCE.

UP TO ONE MONTH AGO, THE COMMISSION WAS A TOTAL VOLUNTEER OPERATION.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION



Word Work



An electronic campaign providing Citizens in the City and County of Pueblo with tips and tools to increase awareness of political polarization and resources available to reduce it

Issues

Immigration
Healthcare
Electoral
Domestic Policy
Foreign Policy
Environmental
Housing



Opportunity

Research shows that carefully designed conversations embracing mutual respect and understanding can help build a foundation for a well informed community and electorate.



2

Finding Common Ground

Political Typology Quiz

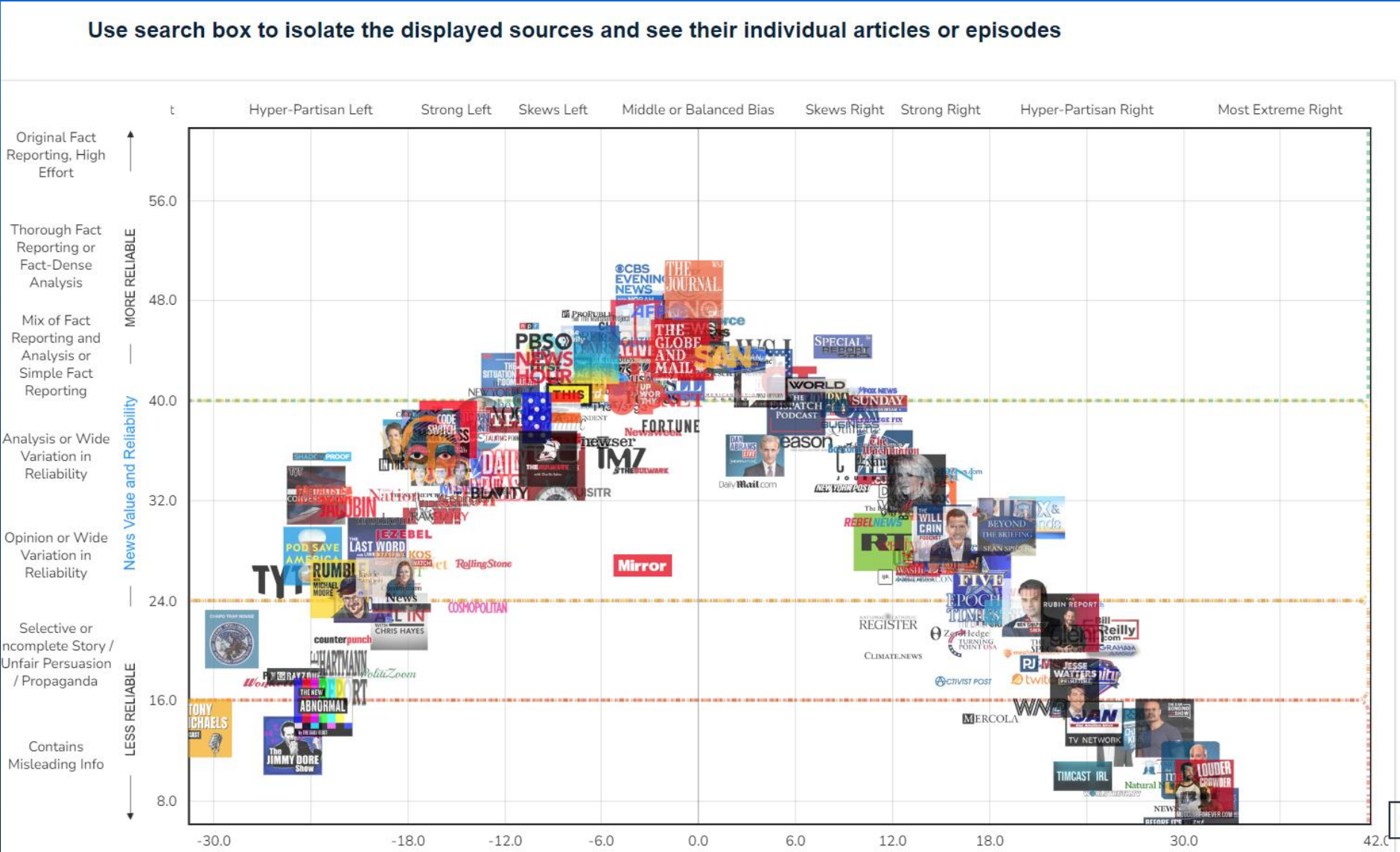
Where do you fit in the political typology?

Are you a Faith and Flag Conservative? Progressive Left? Or somewhere in between?



Take our quiz to find out which one of our nine political typology groups is your best match, compared with a nationally representative survey of more than 10,000 U.S. adults by Pew Research Center. You may find some of these questions are difficult to answer. That's OK. In those cases, pick the answer that comes closest to your view, even if it isn't exactly right.

3



4

Don't get lost in the crowd



5

Steps we can all take

A screenshot of a website titled "Detox From the Political Polarization Trap". The header includes a logo for "POLARIZATION DETOX CHALLENGE" and navigation links for "My Daily Exercises" and "How it Works". The main content area has a dark green background with white text. On the right, there is a "Set a daily reminder" form with fields for "Email Address (Required)" and "Phone Number (Optional)", a "Set Reminder Now" button, and a small disclaimer at the bottom. A yellow arrow points to the "Set a daily reminder" heading, and a yellow 'X' is next to the "Email Address (Required)" field.

Detox From the Political Polarization Trap

Overcome the toxic polarization harming your health, your relationships, and our country's ability to thrive, starting with one short exercise a day.

[Start The Challenge](#)

Set a daily reminder

Email Address (Required)

Phone Number (Optional)

[Set Reminder Now](#)

By submitting your cell phone number you are agreeing to receive periodic text messages from Starts With Us. Message and data rates may apply. Text HELP for more information. Text STOP to stop receiving messages.

Hey Colorado, let's show America how free thinkers replace political fighting with problem solving.

Tired of the division in our country, communities and even our families? We are, too. Here's a chance to **do something** about it.

Welcome to the Unify Challenge for Colorado!

It's a frank one-on-one online conversation with another Coloradan who may vote or think differently than you do (but is just as patriotic!).

Engage with a neighbor or someone clear across the state. Get a fresh perspective about critical issues like **education, housing, public safety, and healthcare**. Help everyone get back to the business of solving problems...instead of whining on social media!

6

Community Program

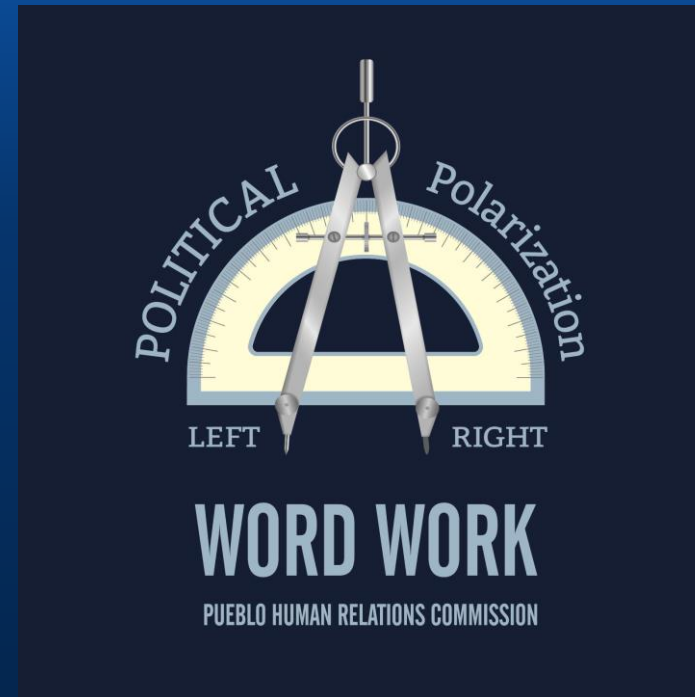
Navigating the News in an Era of Polarized Media

Guest Speaker – Vanessa Otero, Founder and CEO of Ad Fontes Media

September 24, 2024

Hoag Theater

Pueblo Community College



Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024

PUC Information Session on the
Black Hills Electric Rate Increase
Proposal



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission

Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Today's Focus

- Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)
 - About the PUC
 - PUC Role
- Black Hills Rate Increase Proposal
 - Rate Case Overview
 - Timeline
 - Public Comment Opportunities
- Next Steps



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies

PUC Mission

The mission of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission is to serve the public interest by effectively regulating utilities and facilities so that the people of Colorado receive **safe, reliable, and reasonably-priced services consistent with the economic, environmental, and social values of our state.**



Regulated Industries



Electricity



Natural Gas Service



Steam



Water



Transportation/Towing



Telecommunications/911



Rail and Transit



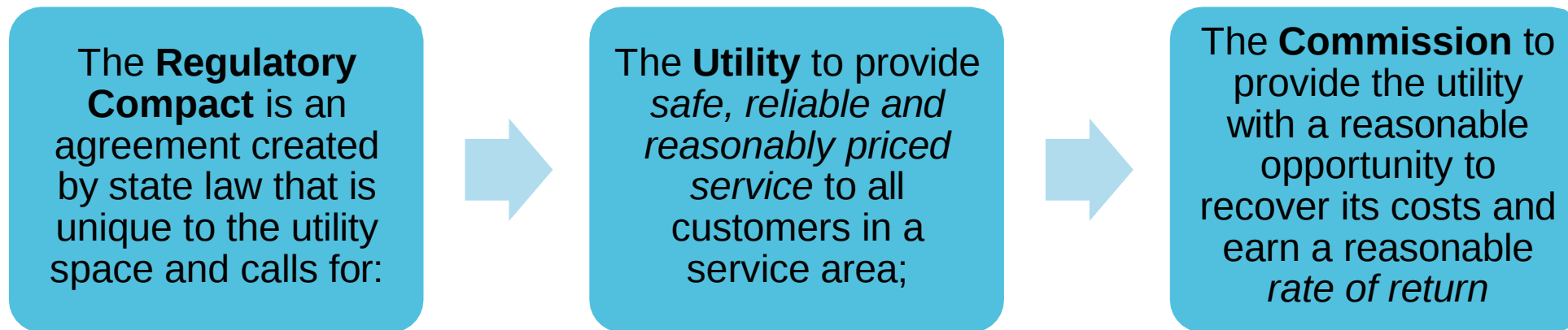
Gas Pipeline Safety

What is the PUC?

- The Colorado Public Utilities Commission, referred to as the “Commission” or “PUC” is an **independent administrative agency** within the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (referred to as “DORA”)
- The PUC has broad constitutional and legislative authority to “**regulate public utilities in Colorado**” Colo. Const., Article XXV, and Title 40, C.R.S.

Why does the PUC exist? Regulated Monopoly Doctrine

- Investor-owned Utilities are “special” under the law. In competitive industries, customers have many purchasing options, but utilities, which are very capital-intensive industries, are “**natural monopolies.**” Because of “natural monopoly” status, utilities must receive **special oversight** to ensure fair prices and reliable service; this is called the “**regulatory compact**”



Structure of the PUC

COMMISSIONERS

- The PUC has three Commissioners that are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by a majority vote of State Senate
- The Commissioners deliberate and issue the ultimate rulings in the PUC's judicial and legislative proceedings
- Commissioners (as the decisionmakers) cannot discuss ongoing proceedings due to *ex parte* laws

DIRECTOR*

- The Director manages the operations of the agency, carries out and implements policies, procedures, and decisions made by the PUC. §40-2-103, C.R.S.
- The Director has power to issue all necessary process, writs, warrants and notices.

**Views and information provided today are those of the Director of the PUC and not necessarily the Commissioners*

Case Structure of the PUC: Two “arms” of the PUC engage in a rate case

Advisors

Commission advisors help prepare the Commission behind the scenes to hear the case including summarizing party positions, providing background information, etc.

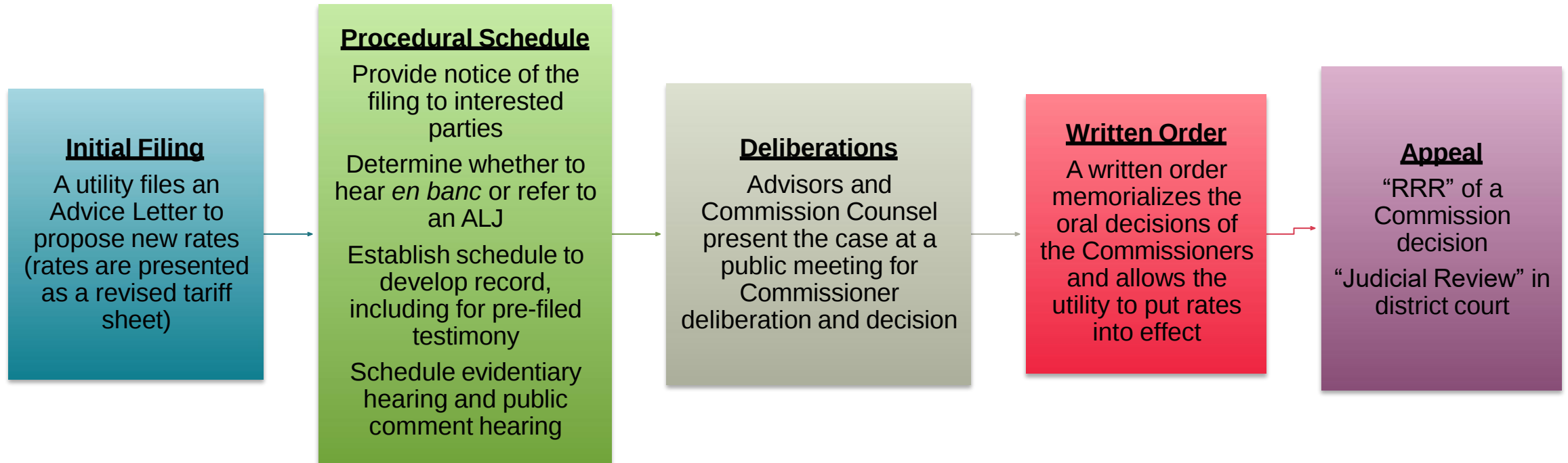
Trial Staff

Trial Staff represents the “public interest;” serves as a full party in the proceeding and prepares their own set of testimony and positions based on the expert engineers, accountants, and economists on staff.

The Role of the PUC in Rate Cases

- When a utility seeks to raise its prices, it must come before the PUC with a request through a **rate case**.
- A rate case is a “**quasi legislative function**” meaning that the PUC acts on behalf of the Legislature to set just and reasonable rates.
- The process begins with the utility’s filing, which includes **testimony** to support its request. The utility calculates the additional revenue it believes it needs to recover its operating costs, depreciation expense and taxes, and to allow its shareholders to earn a **reasonable return**. It may also provide testimony on which ratepayer classes should pay those costs.
- The Commissioners, with help from evidence provided by intervenors and stakeholders, **weighs the utility’s proposal and the overall record**, and then sets rates that are **just and reasonable**, and balance **investor and consumer interests**.

Rate Case Process Overview



The PUC has 250 days to “litigate” a rate case filing. Each proceeding is assigned a detailed procedural schedule that sets forth each stage of the process, including public comment.

On June 14, 2024, Black Hills filed its electric rate case with the PUC—Specifics of Black Hills’ Rate Case (Proceeding No. 24AL-0275E) Timeline and Process are on next slides

Black Hills Electric Rate Initial Proposal Background:

- June 14, 2024: Black Hills filed its electric rate case with the PUC
- This is a Phase I and Phase II Rate Case, meaning that the PUC will determine both the revenue requirement of Black Hills (*i.e.*, how much money it can collect) and the allocation of those costs amongst customer classes (*i.e.*, who pays what).
- Black Hills Energy is requesting an increase to recover infrastructure investment and operating costs, including pay and benefits for local employees. The Company contends that its existing rates do not cover its current cost of providing electric service, so it requests an annual revenue increase of some \$37 million above its current base rate revenue of \$180 million.
- Black Hills Energy is also proposing changes in the relative amount of revenues collected from each customer class. If approved by the PUC, this would cause an increase in an average monthly bill increase for residential customers of about \$20 per month from \$109.67 per month to \$129.81 per month (approximately 18%) and an average monthly bill increase for small commercial customers of \$25.06 from \$251.20 to \$276.26 per month (approximately 10%).

Initial Filing

Utility files an Advice
Letter to propose
new rates

Black Hills Colorado Electric Rate Case Procedural Schedule & Timeline

By Decision Nos. C24-0608-I and C24-0701-I, the PUC established the following schedule:

Procedural Schedule

PUC develops a record of the case.

PUC receives written testimony;

PUC receives oral and written public comment; and

PUC conducts a formal hearing, including cross-examination and commissioner questioning of party witnesses

Intervening parties in the proceeding file written Answer Testimony	October 11, 2024
Public Comment Hearing in Pueblo, CO	October 29, 2024
Public Comment Hearing in Pueblo, CO	October 30, 2024
Black Hills files written Rebuttal Testimony (mandatory) and intervening parties respond to each other's Answer Testimony with written Cross-Answer Testimony (optional)	November 8, 2024
Public Comment Hearing in Canon City, CO	November 19, 2024
If Black Hills and the intervening parties agree to a proposed resolution of all or some of the issues raised in the rate case, they enter into a Settlement Agreement and file it with the PUC	November 20, 2024
PUC conducts a formal hearing heard by the Commissioners on the requested rate case. Attorneys and witnesses for Black Hills and the intervening parties participate in the formal hearing (remotely)	December 2-6 & 9-11, 2024
Remote Public Comment Hearing	December 5, 2024

Black Hills Colorado Electric Rate Case Deliberations and Written Order

Deliberations

Advisors and Commission Counsel present the case at a public meeting for Commissioner deliberation and decision

Written Order

A written order memorializes the oral decisions of the Commissioners and allows the utility to put rates into effect

Appeal

“RRR”

“Judicial Review”
in district court

Deliberations: *January and February 2025:*

- PUC Commissioners begin oral discussions to resolve the case and establish new electric rates for Black Hills. The Commissioners will discuss the evidence in the record and establish “just and reasonable” rates.
- These public deliberation meetings will be part of the Commissioners’ Weekly Meetings (CWMs) held on Wednesday mornings or scheduled as special deliberations meetings (CDMs) with agendas on the PUC’s calendar and website.

Written Decision and New Rates: *March 2025:*

- The PUC will render a final written decision in **early March**.
- That decision will set new electric rates based on the evidence presented in the case and on the justifications explained in the written order.
- New rates will take likely effect in **mid-to-late March**.

Review (if needed): *April 2025 – :*

- The utility or other parties can appeal the PUC’s decision internally (“RRR”), or to district court.

Black Hills Colorado Electric Rate Case Participants

Intervenors

- Participants with a specific interest in the case that can demonstrate the proceeding will affect their interests can request intervention as a party
- Can provide written evidence, can also challenge or support the utility's evidence presented.

Public Commenters

- Part of administrative record
- Valuable information from the public to help the Commissioners evaluate the overall record and can influence what formal parties address issues in testimony
- Comments provide a means for interested persons to encourage the PUC in the exercise of discretion.

Black Hills Colorado Electric Rate Case Participants

Intervenors

Government Agencies:

Trial Staff of the PUC;
The Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA)

Local Governments:

City of Pueblo, County of Pueblo, and Pueblo Economic Development Corporation;
Board of Water Works of Pueblo, The Fountain Valley Authority, and Colorado Springs Utilities/Southern Delivery System;
The City of Cañon City and the City of Florence, Colorado

Large Customers:

Holcim (U.S.), Inc.;
Electrify America, LLC;

Non-profits, Others:

Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC);
Laborers International Union of North America, Local 720;
Colorado Solar and Storage Association and the Solar Energy Industries Association (COSSA/SEIA);
Western Resource Advocates/Sierra Club

Public Commenters

Members of the public that file written comments or speak at several upcoming opportunities

- Written public comments are welcome during the entire proceeding, but comments to be considered during the Commission's oral deliberations should be submitted by early January 2025.
- Written and oral public comments are weighed the same

Black Hills Electric Rate Proposal Public Comment Hearings

Pueblo In-Person Public Comment Hearings:

- Dates/Times: 5pm - 8pm, Tuesday Oct. 29 AND Wednesday, Oct. 30
- Location: Pueblo Memorial Hall, 1 City Hall Place, Pueblo
 - ASL or Spanish services provided on Oct. 29

Canon City In-Person Public Comment Hearing:

- Date/Time: 4-7pm, Tuesday, Nov. 19
- Location: City Council Chambers, 128 Main St., Canon City
 - ASL or Spanish interpretation services can be requested by contacting Holly Bise at 303-894-2024 or holly.bise@state.co.us by Nov. 5, 2024.

Remote/Virtual Public Comment Hearing (Zoom):

- Date/Time: 4-7pm, Thursday, Dec. 5 - Register online at PUC website

Black Hills Electric Rate Proposal Public Comment Hearings

More Opportunities for Comment:

Individuals can also submit written or verbal public comments. Public comments should reference Proceeding Number 24AL-0275E and can be provided by:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission's [Electronic Filing System \(E-Filings\)](#)
- Submitting written comments using the Commission's [online form](#).
- Submitting through email at dora_puc_website@state.co.us.
- Mailing comments to the Commission's offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202.
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (English and Spanish options).

PUC Commitment to Improving Public Access & Participation

PUC expanding access, information, encouraging participation by:

- Incorporating accessibility, plain language, education, Spanish translation
- Promoting Public Comment opportunities in rulemakings & proceedings
- Updating PUC Website and developing new materials (including videos) to explain what the PUC's regulates and how to file complaints
- Providing interpretation services

QUESTIONS?

Colorado Public Utilities Commission

Visit our website:
PUC.COLORADO.GOV



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies