



Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025
Blue River Boardroom, 5th floor, 121 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO
and Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Committee members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Larry Barrett, Scott Smith, Gary Burghart, Vice Chair Michael Borden, David Watson, Chair Katherine Danner and Chris Meyer

Alternate Members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Tom Carter and Albert Badeau

Committee members excused: None

Staff members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Bethany Schoemer, Amy Lewis, Al Wells, Jacqueline Nunez, Renee Adams, David Dalton, Jay Anderson, Andrew Colosimo, Heather Tocci, Kathryn Rozwod, Ryan Sweet, Birgit Landin, David Longrie, Leslie Smith, Gabby Enloe, Joe Awad, Tim Benedict, Nicole Means, Admar Susic, Troy Bass, Tristan Gearhart, Lisa Barbato, Natalie Watts and Travas Deal

Utilities Board members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: None

City of Colorado Springs staff present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

David Beckett and Jill Burris

Residents present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

1. Call to Order

Chair Katherine Danner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and called the roll.

2. Approval of Dec. 4, 2024, UPAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Larry Barrett made a motion to approve the Dec. 4, 2024, meeting minutes and Vice Chair Michael Borden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Ethics and CORA Open Meeting Presentation

Mr. David Beckett, Senior Attorney - Utilities Division, Office of the City Attorney, presented on ethics and the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA).

Mr. Beckett went over the required annual training on the city and state ethics codes, which included requirements for covered persons, open meetings laws for public bodies, and open records requirements and retention.

Key ethic guidelines include members maintaining independent judgment and avoiding conflicts of interest, and disclosure of recusal. This includes can vs. should activities. Gifts are limited to \$75 per year from any single source, and members must disclose potential conflicts of interest and recuse themselves when necessary.

Open meeting requirements include having three or more members discussing business. This type of meeting requires public notice. Meetings must be noticed a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Mr. Beckett shared that if there are any items to disclose, UPAC Members must report that information to Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist Senior.

4. UPAC Assignment Recommendation Discussion

Mr. Barrett presented draft slides covering 12 questions to examine. The questions are the scope of the assignment, which was approved by the Utilities Board.

Mr. Barrett reviewed the seven different presentations from various organizations which include: Colorado Springs Utilities (nuclear, military key account manager, and public preference data), Colorado Energy Office, American Public Power Association, Grant County (WA) Public Utility District, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, TerraPower and Bechtel.

Mr. Deal clarified the life cycle costs and financing considerations which include a current approach to Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs): PPAs typically structured for 20-25-year terms. Tax credit benefits are passed through in PPA pricing. Municipal debt financing remains an option for owned assets.

The committee recommended a full lifecycle cost analysis for 60-80 year nuclear plant lifespan. The committee discussed site permitting of Clear Springs Ranch and the potential of the site. The committee agreed that investigation of this site should be a priority due to existing water rights and infrastructure, available transmission capacity, distance from population centers, and potential to replace existing generation. Mr. Deal noted city charter may limit certain long-term site agreements and the committee recommended pursuing an early site permit process.

The committee would recommend public education and a community engagement strategy. Mr. Barrett reported a recent utility survey showed 25% customer support for nuclear power.

The committee recommended developing a comprehensive community education campaign, hosting town halls for direct community engagement, focusing on

lifecycle costs and reliability benefits, addressing misconceptions about nuclear technology, and creating clear communications about safety and environmental impacts.

The nuclear power presentation is being prepared for the Jan. 22, 2025, Utilities Board update, with a final review scheduled for the Feb. 5, 2025, UPAC meeting.

5. Customer Comment

There were no customer comments.

6. Committee Member General Discussion

Mr. Barrett is leading the presentation revisions, working with Chair Danner and Ms. Schoemer to incorporate the committee's feedback before the February meeting.

7. Adjournment

Chair Danner adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Next meeting: Feb. 5, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Blue River Board Room