

Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024
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:

Chair Larry Barrett, Scott Smith, Gary Burghart, Michael Borden, David Watson, Katherine Danner, Chris Meyer, Tom Carter and Albert Badeau

Committee members excused: None

Staff members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams: Travas Deal, Kaitlin Haslam, Bethany Schoemer, Amy Lewis, Tristan Gearhart, Al Wells, Christian Nelson, Marcela Espinoza, Heather Tocci, Fadil Lee, Leslie Smith, Gabe Caunt, Kathryn Rozwod, Steve Barry, Kerry Baugh, Matt Dudden, Tyrone Johnson and Jacqueline Nunez

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

Residents present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Mason Baker and Michael Squires

1. Call to Order

Chair Larry Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. and called the roll.

2. Approval of Oct. 2, 2024, UPAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Chris Meyer made a motion to approve the Oct. 2, 2024, meeting minutes and Committee Member Katherine Danner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems Presentation

Mr. Mason Baker, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) Chief Executive Officer, presented experiences their agency has had in the nuclear generation space. UAMPS provides wholesale electric energy services, on a non-profit basis, to community-owned power systems throughout the Intermountain West. There are currently 50 members from Utah, Arizona, California, Idaho, New Mexico and Wyoming.

UAMPS terminated their Carbon Free Power Project due to construction risk concerns and the inability to reach 80% subscription target. The project

development started in 2012 with NuScale Power technology. This helped secure \$1.4 billion cost-sharing with the Department of Energy. UAMPS engaged with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes starting in 2014 for site considerations. Ultimately the construction cost deterred potential partners, and the interest rate increased 150 basis points, impacting power costs along with supply chain issues and labor availability.

Mr. Baker discussed their resource mix and energy transition needs which includes their current peak load of 1,350 megawatts. The resource mix includes 25% hydro, 15% coal, with an increase in natural gas. Their planning requirement increases to 115% of peak load for resource adequacy. UAMPS is currently studying 1,200 megawatts of new generation options.

4. Customer Comment

There were no customer comments.

5. Committee Member General Discussion

Colorado Springs Utilities CEO Travas Deal discussed the permitting process for the Nixon site. It is estimated that \$15 million would be the initial site permitting cost. This approach could open potential partners with an already-permitted site. Clear Springs Ranch was identified as a potential nuclear site with 1,000+ acres of existing transmission infrastructure.

The power plant transition strategy and timing were discussed. The committee identified a 15 year+ timeline for nuclear power implementation. The committee noted the importance of parallel planning for both short-term needs and long-term nuclear possibilities.

Mr. Barrett noted that his term serving as chair will conclude at the end of the year. He will be continuing as a committee member. Chair and vice chair elections are scheduled for the December meeting. Mr. Barrett will provide recommendations for the new leadership positions. In December, it is anticipated that we will have representatives from Bechtel, TerraPower, and a Springs Utilities military account representative. A presentation on ethics, open meetings, and the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) will be scheduled for December 2024 or January 2025.

6. Adjournment

Committee Chair Larry Barrett adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting: Dec. 4, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. in the Blue River Board Room