



Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 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, Vice Chair Michael Borden, Gary Burghart, Chair Katherine Danner, Chris Meyer, Scott Smith and David Watson

Alternate members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Albert Badeau and Tom Carter

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, David Longrie, AJ Fink, Brian Grim, Kaitlin Haslam, Troy Bass, Jay Anderson, Heather Tocci, Tristain Gearhart, Nicole Means, Gabe Caunt, Leslie Smith, Kathryn Rozwod, Steve Berry, Jason Green and Natalie Watts

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: Timothy Kirkwood

1. Call to Order

Chair Katherine Danner called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. and called the roll.

2. Approval of Jan. 8, 2025, UPAC Meeting Minutes

Member Chris Meyer made a motion to approve the Jan. 8, 2025, meeting minutes and Member Scott Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. UPAC Recommendation on Nuclear Generation

Committee Member Larry Barrett worked with Chair Danner and Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist, to revise the slides. The Committee was then asked to review the slides to make live edits.

Mr. Barrett reiterated that the questions are the scope of the assignment, which was approved by the Utilities Board.

Presentation Slide Review:

The committee refined the presentation structure to lead with direct answers to the questions the Utilities Board may have. The Committee agreed to add SMR (Small Modular Reactor) visualization after the technology overview slide. It was decided to move technical details to the appendix to maintain presentation flow. Ms. Schoemer also removed information on the detailed concrete/steel construction comparisons due to varying SMR designs.

Nuclear Power Cost Considerations:

The Committee reviewed capital cost estimates ranging from \$4 billion to \$13 billion. They clarified TerraPower's 345 megawatt (MW) plant cost differs from 600 MW comparison basis used for other estimates. There was language added to clarify the potential payment options in lieu of tax credits for non-profit utilities.

Water Usage and Site Location Discussion:

The committee confirmed cooling water is not anticipated to be a constraint; water resources would become available as coal plants are retired and the committee agreed to remove specific water usage numbers from the presentation due to varying technology requirements.

Permitting Timeline and Process:

The committee clarified the separate requirements for construction permits and operating licenses. They noted that there is a potential for 50%-85% shorter licensing process under new federal policies.

Data Center Power Requirements:

The committee suggested that further evaluation is needed on strategic value to Colorado Springs. The committee also noted that these data centers typically require 100 MW base load.

Clear Springs Ranch Site Considerations:

The committee identified the Clear Springs Ranch site as having significant potential advantages for the placement of a nuclear facility. There is existing transmission infrastructure that is a key benefit. The committee recommended pursuing nuclear site permit for this location as an example. The committee will keep site references high-level in the presentation to the Utilities Board.

The committee approved the final presentation for the Utilities Board meeting on Feb. 19, 2025.

4. Customer Comment

Mr. Tim Kirkwood discussed data centers with the committee. He asked about whether attracting data centers would benefit Colorado Springs in terms of jobs and taxes. He acknowledged that while data centers may not create many jobs that they could still be strategically important. The committee thanked Mr. Kirkwood for his comments and would reach out to him if they had any questions.

5. Committee Member General Discussion

Member Barrett is leading the presentation with Chair Danner at the Utilities Board Meeting. Other committee members will be present and available to address specific questions if needed. There will be an update before the March UPAC meeting to determine it will be canceled based on the vote from the Utilities Board.

6. Adjournment

Chair Danner adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.

Next meeting: March 18, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. in the Blue River Board Room