

Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

Colorado Counties, INC WMP and PSPS Draft Rules Overview Meeting September 30, 2026

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies

Today's Focus

- Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Overview
- Draft Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Public Safety Power Shutoff Rulemaking Overview
- Q&A, Discussion

Regulated Industries



Electricity



Gas



Steam



Water



Transportation



Telecommunications



Rail and Transit



Gas Pipeline Safety

PUC Commissioners



Chairman Eric Blank

Term effective Jan. 12, 2025

Eric Blank was appointed Chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on Dec. 11, 2020, by Governor Jared Polis for a four-year term effective Jan. 12, 2021. Governor Polis reappointed him for a second four-year term, effective Jan. 12, 2025.

[Read Full Bio](#)



Commissioner Megan Gilman

Term expires January 2028

Megan Gilman was first appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on March 6, 2020, by Gov. Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on March 13, 2020. She was reappointed in 2024. Her term expires January 2028.

[Read Full Bio](#)



Commissioner Tom Plant

Term expires January 2027

Tom Plant was appointed to the Public Utilities Commission on January 13, 2023, by Gov. Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on February 3, 2023. His term expires in January 2027.

[Read Full Bio](#)

Key Proceedings before the Commission

Where to learn more about matters before the Commission:

- PUC Website homepage <https://puc.colorado.gov/>
- Key Issues webpage <https://puc.colorado.gov/key-proceedings>

Important Proceedings to Watch

Public Comment Opportunities:

September 2026

Wildfire Mitigation & PSPS Rulemaking (26R-0355E)

Xcel Large Load Tariff (26AL-0137E)

Key Proceedings

The PUC wants to help the public stay informed on key proceedings before the Commission. Learn about cases that can shape Colorado's energy, telecom, transportation, pipeline and rail systems. The PUC reviews dozens of proceedings each year that determine what utilities can charge, how they invest, and how they serve consumers.

Search all Proceedings in the E-Filings System

Learn How to Participate

Understanding the Rulemaking Process

Energy & Water

The Commission oversees Colorado's investor-owned electric, gas, and water utilities through proceedings that shape rates, resource planning, clean energy goals, infrastructure investment, and consumer protection.

26A-0235E

Xcel Energy 2028 Resource Adequacy

On June 15, 2026, Xcel Energy filed an Application asking the Commission to approve a portfolio of

26AL-0232E

Black Hills Energy Electric Rate Case

Black Hills Energy's request to increase electric rates for Colorado.

26AL-0137E

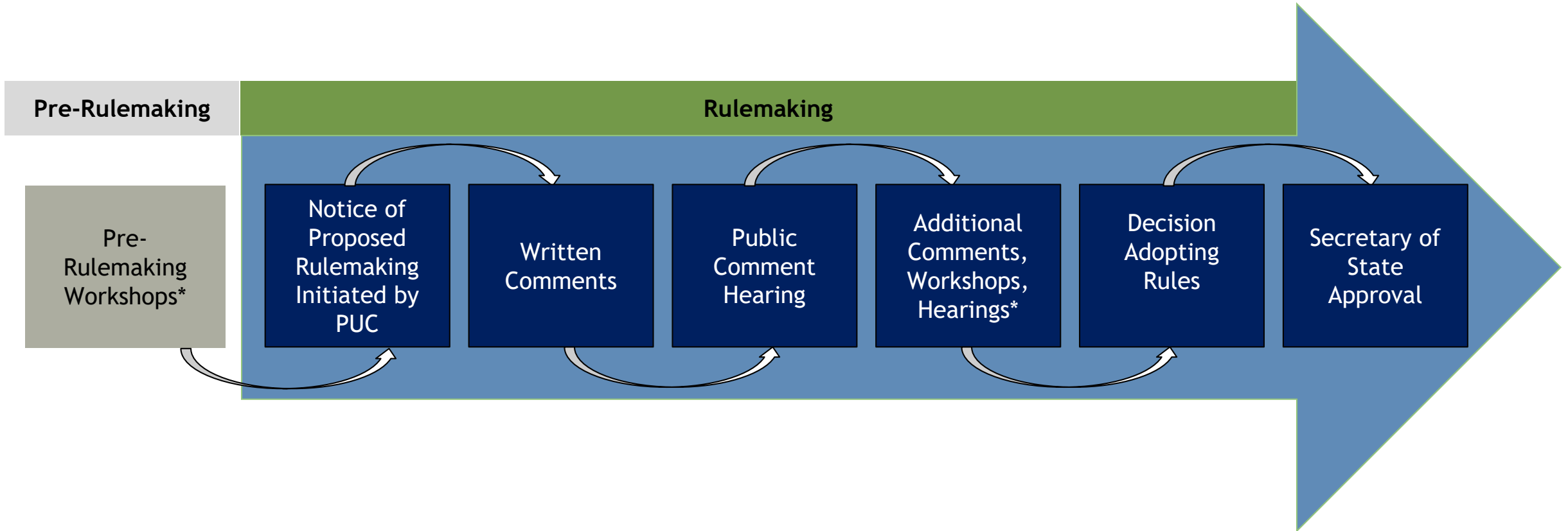
Large Load Tariff

Xcel Energy's proposal to address how high-demand energy projects (those requiring 50 MW or more),

Rulemaking Process

- A proceeding is opened and a Commission Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) is issued proposing rules. Redline copies of the rules are included with the decision.
- The proposed rules address the requirements of the statute.
- Often the proposed rules are close to eventual permanent rules due to being influenced by stakeholder meetings.
- Public hearings are held to gather input and an ALJ/Commissioner issues a decision adopting the resulting rules.
- The adopted rules are filed with the Secretary of State.

Rulemaking Process



**May or may not be conducted depending on the proceeding*

How You Can Participate in the Rulemaking

<https://puc.colorado.gov/energy-wildfire-mitigation-psps-rulemaking-proceedings>

- ☐ Create an account in [E-Filings](#), the Commission's electronic document management system
- ☐ Submit comments through our [online form](#)
- ☐ Call in or leave a oral comment at (303) 869-3490 (English & Spanish Option)
- ☐ Email comments to dora_puc_website@state.co.us
- ☐ Mail written comments to Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202



Current Proceeding

26R-0355E

Rulemaking Status

Proposed WMP and PSPS Rules

[File a Public Comment](#)

[View Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#)

[View Proposed Rules](#)

When filing comments, please reference the Wildfire Mitigation Plan and Public Safety Power Shutoff Rulemaking, Proceeding 26R-0355E.

Milestone	Scheduled Date	Notes
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR)	Sept. 23, 2026	Commission voted 3-0 to issue NOPR and refer to ALJ. Watch Sept. 23 CWM
Initial Public Comments Due	Nov. 2, 2026	File through the public comment form or on E-Filings, citing the proceeding number when assigned.
Responsive Comments Due	Nov. 16, 2026	Comments responding to the initial comments received.
Initial Public Comment Hearing	Nov. 23, 2026	Click here to register in advance for this meeting ↗ .
Recommended Decision	TBD	Following review of comments and hearing testimony.



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Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) and Public Safety Power Shutoff Rulemaking (PSPS)

- For the last two decades, Colorado has seen elevated wildfire risk and record-setting destructive fires. Two of the largest five wildfires in state history occurred in 2020/22.
- There is no specific statute or Commission rule that requires utilities to file WMPs. Xcel filed its first Wildfire Mitigation Plan in 2020, Black Hills has developed a WMP, but has not filed it.
- Xcel implemented the first ever PSPS event in Colorado in April of 2024 as a result of a wind storm – proactively de-energizing approximately 55,000 customers.
- Xcel has since implemented several other PSPS events with the largest impacts resulting from a series of PSPS Events in December of 2025. The extensive impact of these events highlighted the need for additional structure and guidance for utility wildfire-related activities.

Pre-rulemaking Efforts (Proceeding NO. 26M-0037E)

Commissioner Information Meeting (CIM) - 2/2/2026

- Xcel presented details of the PSPS plan and execution of December 2025 events
- Feedback was heard from various local leader stakeholders.
 - Local economic loss and increased need for accurate communication esp with OEMs/local govts.
 - Attention around the communication of and prioritization of restoration times.
 - Accuracy of PSPS mitigation strategy.

Public Comments

- Concerns of economic hardship.
 - Both small businesses and families that are enrolled in benefit programs.
- Inconsistent communication regarding de-energization and restoration timelines and geographic impact.
- Trouble knowing what mitigation measures are being taken- i.e. PSPS vs. EPSS.

Other Input

- Staff have worked with a consultant to incorporate national best practices and reviewed guidance from NERC and rules from other Western states regarding WMP and PSPS plan minimum requirements.

WMP and PSPS Rules Overview

WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF

3630. Applicability.

3631. Definitions.

WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANNING AND PROCEDURES

3632. Overview and Purpose

3633. WMP Filing Requirements.

3634. WMP Contents.

3635. Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment Standards.

3636. Wildfire Event Reporting.

3637. Annual WMP Update Reporting and Semi-Annual Data Reporting

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTOFF PLANNING AND PROCEDURES

3638. Overview and Purpose.

3639. PSPS Plan Filing Requirements.

3640. PSPS Plan Contents

3641. PSPS Event Notifications and Coordination

3642. Operational Procedures During and Immediately After a PSPS Event

3643. PSPS Post Event Reporting

3644. PSPS Annual Update Reporting and Semi-Annual Data Reporting

Draft Rules for WMP and PSPS (3630-3631)

- **3630 - Applicability.** Establishes that the rules are only binding for electric Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs) in Colorado.
 - Encourages Cooperative Electric Associations and Municipally Owned Utilities to develop and publicly post WMP's and annual reports and meet the requirements, where practicable, in sections 3632-3637.
 - Encourages all such entities that deploy proactive de-energization as a wildfire mitigation tool to adopt the PSPS nomenclature and procedures set forth in 3631, 3638, and 3641. Also encourages outreach and education of mitigation tool.
- **3631 - Definitions.** Includes terms such as high wildfire risk area (HWRA) and risk-spend efficiency (RSE) for WMP plans, and Critical Facility or Infrastructure and PSP's (Public Safety Partners) for PSPS.

Key Requirements for WMP Rules (3632-3633)

- **3632 - Overview and Purpose.** Establishes WMP standards to ensure that each electric utility is responsible for constructing, maintaining, and operating its electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will cost-effectively minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfire posed by those electrical lines and equipment.
- **3633 - Filing Requirements.**
 - Requires Xcel and Black Hills to file a WMP every three years as an application, and submit update reports annually, by March 31st.
 - Establishes that WMPs shall be publically available, with the burden on each utility to designate information as confidential only to the extent necessary to protect Critical Energy Infrastructure information or other information eligible for protection under Commission rules.

Key Requirements for WMP Rules (3634)

- **WMP Contents.** Requires a WMP application to include the following:
 - Mitigation targets and performance metrics;
 - Projected expenditures;
 - Risk ranking of circuits and projected risk reduction on high-risk circuits,
 - Quantitative risk assessment methodology used,
 - Risk-informed prioritization and mitigation selection process,
 - Overview of mitigation practices in high wildfire risk areas, including grid design and system hardening, asset inspections, equipment maintenance and repair, and vegetation management,
 - Situational awareness plan,
 - Emergency preparedness & recovery plan, and
 - Data management & governance.

Key Requirements for WMP Rules (3635-3637)

- **3635 - Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment Standards.** Requires and establishes minimum criteria for utilities' quantitative WMP risk methodologies:
 - Documentation requirements; Identification of high risk areas and risk drivers; Detailed sourcing of all data, including ignition likelihoods, association rates, mitigation effectiveness, and consequence attributes;
 - Aggregation methods and probabilistic structure used to quantify risk, including systemwide risk, risk spend efficiency, and high consequence, low probability “tail” risk; Risk ranking of assets; Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses; Segmentation; Reliability impacts and cascading or interdependent impacts;
 - Incorporation of staff feedback; Independent evaluator for verification and validation.
- **3636-3637 - Event Reporting.** Requires utilities to file a preliminary report within 5 business days of the conclusion of a reportable event, and a final report within 30 business days of an event. **Annual Reporting.** Requires a utility to file an annual WMP update by March 31st of each WMP year, and a mid-year report by September 30.

Key Requirements for PSPS Rules (3640-3641)

- **3640 - PSPS Plan Contents.** Requires a PSPS Plan to:
 - Clearly define utilities responsibilities for filing PSPS Plans. Plans will be filed every 3 years, and must incorporate lessons learned from past PSPS events to inform future planning and show progress in reduction of future events, and define conditions under which PSPS may be used as a mitigation strategy.
 - Identify strategies for maintaining contact information for, and communicating with, Public Safety Partners, Critical Facilities & Infrastructure, and Access & Functional Needs (AFN) populations ahead of and during a PSPS,
 - Require education and outreach to help communities prepare for PSPS events and know what to expect during an event.
 - Plan for notifying all customers and relevant non-customers during a PSPS event- including restoration timelines, and how they educate communities prior to wildfire season.
- **3641 - PSPS Plan Event Notification and Coordination**
 - Details that notifications shall be coordinated with PSP's and aligned with existing emergency response protocols.
 - Includes mapping requirements, notification requirements for AFN populations, and establishes minimum notification timelines, which are detailed on the following slide.

Minimum Notification Timeline- 3641

Timing	Notification Requirement
48-72 hours before de-energization	Priority notifications to the Commission and Public Safety Partners
24-48 hours before de-energization	Notifications to all potentially affected populations
1-4 hours before de-energization	Notifications to all potentially affected populations
At the time the PSPS is initiated	Notifications to all affected populations
During the PSPS event	Real-time updates to affected customers about conditions that could affect the duration or scope of the outage
When the utility determines de-energization is no longer needed / during restoration	Notifications to all affected populations, with estimated restoration timeline and known conditions that could impact that timeline
When re-energization is complete	Notifications to all affected populations
In the event of a delay, cancellation, or major change in scope of the de-energization event	Notifications to all previously notified populations

Key Requirements for PSPS Rules (3642-3644)

3642- Operational Procedures- During and Immediately After an Event

- Establishes expectations that utilities must monitor and maintain a safe environment and equipment.
- Directs re-energization of equipment to be done according to SOP's for service restoration-including details on patrols and inspections.
- Provides restoration timelines.

3643- PSPS Post Event Reporting

- Each PSPS event requires a post event report within 10 business days, using a template developed by Commission Staff.
- Requires event specific details to be reported, including decision making and operational actions, scale and scope of event, and notification metrics.
- Identification of lessons learned and issues encountered.

3644- PSPS Annual Reporting

- Annual reports and semi-annual data reporting must include outreach and education, details of table top exercises to prepare communities, back up power and battery programs.
- Semi-annual further details number of events, scope of events, and identification of frequently de-energized circuits.

How You Can Participate in Upcoming Rulemakings & Proceedings



Submit Public Comments



...in multiple languages and formats.

- ☐ Create an account in [E-Filings](#), the Commission's electronic document management system
- ☐ Submit comments through our [online form](#)
- ☐ Call in a leave a oral comment at (303) 869-3490 (English & Spanish Option)
- ☐ Email comments to dora_puc_comments@state.co.us
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QUESTIONS?

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