



COLORADO
Public Utilities Commission
Department of
Regulatory Agencies

NEWS RELEASE

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Colorado Public Utilities Commission Announces Wildfire Mitigation Plan & Public Safety Power Shutoff Draft Rules

Public invited to provide comment

Denver ~ The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Sept. 23 to establish new rules on Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) for Xcel Energy and Black Hills Energy. The PUC Staff's full [proposed draft rules](#) are now available online.

The PUC welcomes input from the public and stakeholders on the rules and to participate in this rulemaking process:

- Initial written comments filed with the Commission are requested by Nov. 2.
- The first public comment hearing will be held virtually on Nov. 2. Register [here](#).
- Provide comment any time via email to dora_puc_comments@state.co.us, online by clicking [here](#), voicemail at (303) 894-3490, or mail to the PUC at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250 Denver CO, 80202. Be sure to include the Proceeding No. 26R-0355E.
- To find full information on the WMP/PSPS Rulemaking, including timelines, a webinar on the rules, visit the [PUC's WMP/PSPS Active Rulemaking webpage](#). All documents associated with this rulemaking can be found on the Commission's [e-filing site](#) under Proceeding No. 26R-0355E.

About the WMP/PSPS and this Rulemaking:

Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs) describe how utilities will reduce wildfire risks from their power lines and equipment in a cost-effective way. WMPs include measures such as inspecting and replacing equipment, trimming trees near power

lines, and moving lines underground to protect people and communities. The WMP Draft Rules seek to:

- **Understand risk:** Assess where wildfires could start from utility equipment, how likely they are, and how they could harm people and communities.
- **Ensure effective investments:** Compare ways to reduce wildfire risk, weigh the costs and benefits, and explain which improvements are prioritized and why.
- **Show progress:** Report on work completed, money spent, and reductions in wildfire risk so the PUC and public can evaluate results.

Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) are a proactive, temporary power outage that utilities can use during extreme weather to prevent their equipment from igniting wildfires. Colorado's first PSPS occurred in April 2024. The PSPS Draft Rules:

- Clearly define utility's responsibilities and set statewide rules for filing power-shutoff plans and reports.
- Provide that utilities only turn off power as a last resort when there is an immediate and severe wildfire risk. It cannot be their main safety strategy.
- Require utilities to submit a PSPS plan every three years that uses lessons learned from past power shutoffs.
- Establish communication requirements on how utilities must notify the public during an active shutoff, as well as requirements for educating communities before wildfire season starts.

About the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

The Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) serves 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. Learn more at <https://puc.colorado.gov/>

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