



Minutes
Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, Dec. 4, 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: Natalie Watts, Amy Lewis, Tristan Gearhart, Al Wells, Christian Nelson, Heather Tocci, Gabe Caunt, Kathryn Rozwod, Matt Dudden, Tyrone Johnson, Steve Carr, Chase Arnett, Renee Adams, Lisa Barbato, Dan Norton, Jared Miller, David Longrie, Jerry Edwards, Abigail Ortega, Nick Forehand, Joe Awad, Jay Anderson, Troy Bass, Ryan Sweet 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 and Jill Burris

Residents present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:

Timothy Kirkwood

1. Call to Order

Chair Larry Barrett called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and called the roll.

2. Approval of Nov. 6, 2024, UPAC Meeting Minutes

Committee Member Scott Smith made a motion to approve the Nov. 6, 2024, meeting minutes and Committee Member Katherine Danner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. TerraPower

Mr. Christian Blessing, Director of Strategic Development for TerraPower, presented on their sodium reactor technology. It features a 345 MW standard nuclear output with energy storage allowing 100-500 MW flexible power delivery up to five hours. Their reactor has a 500°C heat output and an energy storage system that uses molten salt.

Their plant in Kemmerer, Wyoming features three main components: A nuclear reactor island, an energy storage island using commercial-grade salt storage

technology, and a turbine island for power generation. Mr. Blessing highlighted the reactor operates at atmospheric pressure with passive safety features. The system allows the nuclear plant to run at 100% capacity while energy storage handles grid demand fluctuations. The plant requires a 400-meter environmental protection zone, significantly smaller than traditional nuclear plants. The reactor operates at atmospheric pressure with passive safety features.

Mr. Blessing invited the members of the UPAC to Wyoming to see the technology being used.

4. Bechtel

Mr. Brian Coombe, Marketing and Business Development Manager for Bechtel, presented an outline of a three-year construction timeline for nuclear facilities. The current site they are working on is in Kemmerer, Wyoming. As the integrated engineering, procurement, and construction contractor, Bechtel plans to use direct-hire construction for complex work with some specialty subcontracting to implement digital delivery stems. Bechtel has already mobilized initial contractors for work in Wyoming.

5. Nuclear Generation Project Military Perspective

Mr. Steve Carr, Principal Key Account Manager for Colorado Springs Utilities, discussed the military installations served by Springs Utilities, the military energy focus, the military perspective on nuclear, and the military approach.

Mr. Carr noted that the military requires 24/7 power availability for mission assurance. The Army is targeting a 14-day energy independence capability. Installations need the ability to operate independently from the main grid. The military is focused on both on-base and off-base power resilience. 60-70% of military personnel live off-base, which requires broader community resilience. The Army is targeting nuclear deployment at some installations by the early 2030s.

The military prefers a partnership model rather than directly owning/operating nuclear facilities. There would be potential for shared land-use agreements through enhanced use leases. Multiple bases are exploring nuclear options through requests for information (RFIs).

6. Customer Comment

Mr. Timothy Kirkwood, customer, relayed that he spoke with Mr. Travas Deal in early November. Through that conversation, it was recommended to speak with UPAC regarding fusion versus fission nuclear energy. Mr. Barrett thanked Mr. Kirkwood for this comment and explained that this assignment is currently focused on SMR technologies. UPAC would look into the comment made by Mr. Kirkwood.

7. Selection of UPAC Officers

Mr. David Beckett from the City Attorney's Office reviewed the voting procedures for UPAC officer selection; the votes required a majority of active regular members, each member gets one vote, members can vote for themselves, or others, and officers can only serve in their roles for two years. Mr. Barrett expressed his gratitude for serving as chair and will continue as a member. Mr. Barrett nominated Ms. Katherine Danner as Chair and Mr. Michael Borden as vice chair. Ms. Danner and Mr. Borden accepted their nominations. The motions passed unanimously.

8. Committee Member General Discussion

Mr. Barrett explained his transition process and said he will work with Ms. Danner on policy recommendations and distribution plans of his presentation for the January 2025 UPAC meeting.

9. Adjournment

Committee Chair Larry Barrett adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

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