



**Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)  
Wednesday, July 3, 2024, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Blue River Board Room,  
121 S. Tejon Plaza of the Rockies or Microsoft Teams  
[Click here to join the meeting](#)

<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>1.</b>	<b>Call to Order</b>	
<b>8:05 a.m.</b>	<b>2.</b>	<b>Approval of June 5, 2024 UPAC Meeting Minutes</b>	Decision
<b>8:10 a.m.</b>	<b>3.</b>	<b>Resolution of Appreciation for Hilary Dussing</b>	Decision
<b>8:20 a.m.</b>	<b>4.</b>	<b>Nuclear Generation Assignment Scope</b>	Discussion
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>5.</b>	<b>Citizen Comment</b> Citizens can provide comment in person, by joining the meeting from computer or by phone using the link above. If you would like to speak during the citizen comment period, please sign up to speak through <a href="mailto:BoardSubmissions@csu.org">BoardSubmissions@csu.org</a> prior to the meeting.	Discussion
<b>9:10 a.m.</b>	<b>6.</b>	<b>Committee Member General Discussion</b>	
<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>7.</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	

Next meeting: August 7, 2024

Note: UPAC Bylaws, Rule 6: Customer and Public Comment: (b) At the discretion of the Chair, or the majority of the Committee Members present, customers and members of the public will be allowed to comment or ask questions concerning items discussed at regular meetings or concerning matters discussed at special meetings. Comments or questions by individuals will be limited to five minutes each, and all customer or public comments will not exceed twenty minutes on any agenda item unless time is extended by the Chair or majority of the Committee Members present.



**Minutes**  
**Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)**  
**Wednesday, June 5, 2024**  
**Blue River Boardroom, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, 121 S. Tejon St., Colorado Springs, CO**  
**and Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting**

**Committee members present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:** Vice Chair Hilary Dussing, Gary Burghart, Scott Smith, Michael Borden and David Watson

**Committee members excused:** Chair Larry Barrett, Katherine Danner and alternate Chris Meyer

**Staff members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:** Al Wells, Marcela Espinoza, Bethany Schoemer, Andrew Colosimo, Natalie Watts, Gail Pecoraro, Leslie Smith, Christian Nelson, Jason Rigler and Tristian Gearhart

**Utilities Board members present in the Boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:** Chair Dave Donelson

**City of Colorado Springs staff present in the boardroom or via Microsoft Teams:** David Beckett

**1. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Hilary Dussing called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. and called the roll.

**2. Approval of December 6, 2023, UPAC Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Scott Smith made a motion to approve the December 6, 2023, meeting minutes and Committee Member Micheal Borden seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. UPAC Bylaws Update**

Ms. Bethany Schoemer, Strategic Planning and Governance Specialist Senior, discussed two changes made to the UPAC Bylaws after the last completed assignment. The first proposed change included adding language to ensure an assignment is completed within the timeframe of the Utilities Board that approved the assignment. The second change was establishing a UPAC liaison, either the Chair or Vice Chair of the Utilities Board, to provide support, guide and direct UPAC as they move through an approved assignment. Ms. Schoemer explained there was also administrative clean up to the Bylaws to mirror the Utilities Board Bylaws. She discussed the next steps and advised the changes will be going to the Utilities Board on June 18 for approval.

Committee Member Smith asked for an explanation on the role of the UPAC liaison and their responsibilities. Ms. Schoemer and Mr. Dave Donelson, Chair of the Utilities Board, stated the liaison would be an advisor to UPAC to guide them through a given

assignment. Committee Member Smith also questioned the authority UPAC will have over staff and the process that will need to occur in future assignments. Mr. Tristan Gearhart, Chief Planning and Financial Officer, advised staff will continue to provide information on assignments, however, the Utilities Board will have the final say on the information staff will bring forward to the committee.

The Committee discussed who would be responsible in bringing forward an assignment and voiced concerns of completing an assignment within the given timeframe. It was clarified that UPAC will receive assignments from the Utilities Board directly, not Springs Utilities' staff. Future assignments will need to be completed within the given timeframe to avoid confusion with future Board Members.

Mr. Gary Burghart expressed concerns over Springs Utilities' leadership participation at UPAC meetings. Mr. Gearhart and Mr. Donelson assured committee members that staff values UPAC's recommendations.

#### **4. Citizen Comment**

None

#### **5. Committee Member General Discussion**

Mr. Donelson advised the Utilities Board is proposing UPAC explore nuclear energy as the next potential assignment. He stated there are new guidelines surrounding zero emissions and clean energy and Springs Utilities would benefit from the prospective findings. Mr. Donelson explained the Committee could investigate the legitimacy of federal funding with new technology, such as modular reactors requiring less water and reducing waste, and explore the new technology being used in surrounding states, like Wyoming and Utah.

Committee Member Watson expressed interest in the recommended assignment scope and stated it would be beneficial for UPAC to explore state and federal regulations surrounding nuclear energy.

The Committee discussed how the suggested assignment would correlate with policy and Mr. Donelson gave an example of the possibility for UPAC to suggest a nuclear energy policy that could investigate new technology every two years to avoid possible delays in advancing Springs Utilities' energy future.

Vice Chair Dussing asked for a scope of work from staff and a list of questions on the assignment for the next step. Ms. Schoemer recommended bringing forward a draft scope of the assignment to the July 3 UPAC meeting and then to the Utilities Board on July 17 for approval.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Vice Chair Dussing adjourned the meeting at 9:07 a.m.

**Next meeting:** July 3, 2024, at 8:00 a.m.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF  
APPRECIATION TO HILARY DUSSING FOR HER SERVICE TO  
THE UTILITIES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- WHEREAS, Hilary Dussing has been a valuable member of the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) since 2019; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing served as UPAC’s vice chair in 2023 and 2024; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing brought to UPAC her many years of business experience, principally in the energy industry, to expertly advise several UPAC assignments; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing consistently provided excellent leadership and demonstrated integrity and commitment to the success of UPAC; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing’s ability to analyze assignment information and to summarize the various UPAC member and commenter positions into a succinct restatement often led to UPAC reaching a consensus recommendation; and
- WHEREAS, In her capacity as a UPAC member, Ms. Dussing showed true commitment to Colorado Springs Utilities, its customers and stakeholders by dedicating countless hours to working on assignments; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing was a major contributor to the assignments conducted during her five years as a UPAC member including: Electric and Gas Integrated Resource Plans; Enterprise Innovation; Water Acquisition Funding; and Cost Recovery Mechanisms; and
- WHEREAS, Ms. Dussing brought valued insight, experience, energy, passion and dedication in carrying out her responsibilities as a UPAC member, resulting in a positive effect on this community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

UPAC extends its deepest appreciation to Hilary Dussing for her outstanding service on the Utilities Policy Advisory Committee.

Dated at Colorado Springs, Colorado this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2024.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Barrett, UPAC Chair



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# Nuclear Generation Project Scope

July 3, 2024

# Purpose

To examine nuclear power options for Colorado Springs Utilities



# Questions to examine:

1. What should Springs Utilities be doing to prepare for nuclear power generation in the future?
2. What is the state of the technology (SMRs, etc.)?
3. What is the cost range for different options? Should cost be seen as prohibitive?
4. What are the environmental pros and cons, including waste disposal and emissions?
5. Are the water constraints in Colorado a prohibitive factor?
6. What is the regulatory environment in Colorado and nationally?

# Questions to examine continued:

7. Are there federal or other funding or research opportunities that Springs Utilities should investigate?
8. How long does permitting take?
9. What is being done in the southwest and Rocky Mountain region – where similar water limitations and climate and altitude are found (i.e. projects in Wyoming)?
10. What are the opportunities for partnerships and collaboration?
11. What is recommended for the frequency of UPAC re-examining this topic, including for the EIRP?
12. Based on this assignments' findings, what areas need further evaluation by UPAC?

# Timeline

- The assignment findings must be presented no later than the March 2025 Utilities Board meeting.

# Draft Schedule Options

# Option 1

# Draft Schedule Example

## **August 7, 2024**

- Springs Utilities' presentation on nuclear activities and plans
- Nuclear in Electric Integrated Resource Plan
- Review plans for Nuclear Power Research Project

## **September 4, 2024**

- U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy
- American Nuclear Society

## **October 2, 2024**

- Colorado Energy Office
- Independence Institute

# Draft Schedule Example Cont.

## **November 6, 2024**

### Manufacture Presentations

- NuScale SMR Power Plant
- Terra Power Sodium SMR Power Plant
- Other

## **December 4, 2024**

### Colorado Utility Presentations

- Xcel Energy
- Black Hills Power
- Tri-State G&T
- Platte River Power
- Out of state utilities

# Draft Schedule Example Cont.

## **January 8, 2025**

### Issues Discussion

- Technology
- Finance
- Environment
- Regulatory
- Partnerships

## **February 6, 2025**

### Draft Policy Recommendations

## **March 19, 2025**

### Final Policy Recommendations

# Option 2

# Alternative Schedule Example



Have UPAC members volunteer ownership/research of 1-2 of the 12 questions outlined in the scope



During each month focus on 1-2 of the 12 questions and research conducted by UPAC member



Integrate guest presentations throughout



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