

COLORADO
TASK FORCE ON RELIABLE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

On Thursday May 4, 2006 Governor Owens signed House Bill 06-1325 into law, creating a new subsection in Title 40 C.R.S. The Colorado Legislature declared:

The general assembly finds, determines, and declares that a reliable electric infrastructure for the state of Colorado is in the public interest and vital to the state's citizens. Further, the state's long-term economic viability is dependent upon a reliable electric infrastructure. It is therefore in the state's interest to ensure that the state's electric infrastructure can meet present and future demands for electricity. The general assembly therefore finds that the state of Colorado should engage affected stakeholders to develop a comprehensive plan that addresses the state's future electric infrastructure needs for the benefit of Colorado and its citizens.

The new subsection, § 40-15-115, creates the Task Force on Reliable Electricity Infrastructure.

The Task Force may make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding the sufficiency of Colorado's electric transmission infrastructure to meet the state's existing and projected needs. The Task Force is to take testimony on the topics listed in Subsection 3, of the law and it shall report to the Governor and the General Assembly on such testimony no later than November 1, 2006.

The Task Force is to hold at least four meetings, which are to be open to the public. The Task Force is to solicit and receive comments from the members of the public, and include an opportunity for the public to submit written comments. The Task Force is to consider and give weight to comments received during the public hearing process as well as written comments from affected counties, cities, electric providers and customers, environmental groups and other interested stakeholders.

At a minimum the Task Force is to take comments on the following topics:

1. The current and projected demand for electricity in Colorado through the year 2020.
2. An inventory of the electric transmission infrastructure that serves Colorado, with estimates of its sufficiency to meet current and projected demand.
3. Additions or improvements to the state's electric transmission system that will be required to meet the projected demand.
4. The electric transmission needs related to implementation of Section 40-2-124, as approved by Colorado voters in November 2004.
5. The decision-making process for routing transmission lines.
6. The financial resources and time required to build or improve transmission infrastructure as required to meet the projected demand.
7. The existing and anticipated future impediments to improving Colorado's electric transmission infrastructure.
8. Possible policy choices to ensure that Colorado will have a reliable electric grid and reasonably priced electricity supplies, and
9. Additional transmission issues, including, without limitation:
 - a. siting and permitting;
 - b. establishing or enhancing the transmission system interconnection with such systems in other states;

COLORADO
TASK FORCE ON RELIABLE ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

- c. the benefits, detriments, and impediments of multi-state planning; issues regarding transmission project financing and cost recovery; issues regarding accessing transmission capacity created by new investments;
 - d. accommodating renewable sources; upgrading and maximizing the use of existing transmission corridors;
 - e. eminent domain; and
 - f. revenue sharing among jurisdictions along transmission corridors.
10. The Task Force may also consider the results of any recent studies that address Colorado's transmission infrastructure.

Task Force First Meeting: Monday August 21 st @ 1 :30pm, at the offices of the
Colorado PUC,
1580 Logan St.
Denver, CO
Open to the Public

The Task Force is to have a web site linked from the Colorado PUC Web Site:
<http://www.dora.state.co.us/puc/>

Contact:
Inez Dominguez
Colorado PUC
303 894-2876
inez.dominguez@dora.state.co.us