



COLORADO
Department of
Regulatory Agencies
Public Utilities Commission



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PRESS RELEASE

COLORADO JOINS CALIFORNIA, NEVADA, OREGON AND WASHINGTON ON FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

SAN FRANCISCO, SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 – Today the public utility commissions of California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington are pleased to announce that Colorado has joined the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change (JAFCC) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the fight against climate change.

The expanded JAFCC MOU brings together the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN), Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC), Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), and the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. The strategic partnership builds on a history of cooperation that aims to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, improve reliability, and obtain cost benefits for ratepayers.

The western utility commissions have agreed to collaborate and share best management practices for key principle initiatives, including:

1. Regional cooperation to address climate change and decarbonize;
2. Development and use of low-carbon technologies in the energy industry;
3. Promotion of cost-effective conservation and demand response;
4. A strong, continued commitment to renewable energy resources;
5. Support for energy planning processes that recognize the ability of low-carbon resources to provide reliability and cost-effective benefits, while fostering new technology and innovation; and
6. Advancement of regional energy and transmission markets to maximize ratepayer benefits.

In response to the Colorado PUC joining the JAFCC MOU Chair Ackermann stated, “The imperative of climate change compels us to actively look beyond our state borders for opportunities to learn from and

collaborate with others. This Joint Action Framework does just that, and underscores the Colorado efforts to modernize and reform our regulatory practices.”

“The addition of the Colorado PUC to the Joint Action Framework on Climate Change further enhances the efforts of western regulators to work collaboratively and across state lines to decarbonize cost-effectively, support regional markets, and plan for resiliency. We are pleased to welcome the Colorado PUC, which brings a wealth of knowledge to the group and will be a strong partner in developing best management practices as we continue to tackle a rapidly changing electric system in the face of climate change,” said President Marybel Batjer of the CPUC.

“The California, Oregon, Washington and Nevada commissions are excited to welcome the Colorado Commission to our cooperative effort to promote deployment of cost-effective, reliable and clean energy resources and infrastructure, while recognizing the unique approach of each state to addressing these difficult challenges,” said PUCN Chairwoman Ann Pongracz.

“As our collaboration grows, it is important to note that climate change affects utility systems in every state in the west, regardless of the state’s climate policy approach,” said Megan Decker, Chair of the Oregon Public Utility Commission. “We expect to find opportunities for collaboration across the west, as we did with our recent wildfire dialogue.”

“Our states are working aggressively to identify and implement best practices to address carbon emissions in the utility sector,” said WUTC Chair David Danner. “We have already learned much from our collaboration, and with the addition of Colorado we can anticipate even greater success going forward.”

In showing their respective commitment to address climate change, the Commissions will share information and best practices with the mutual goal of reducing carbon pollution and expanding clean energy solutions, while continuing to promote energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response programs.

In 2006, Pacific coast utility regulators signed an agreement to address climate change, a serious threat to the health, safety, and welfare of all people. Over 10 years later, the Chairs of the California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Colorado Commissions continue this commitment to ensure that investor-

owned utilities operate in a manner that protects human health and safety, the environment, and ratepayers from risks related to carbon pollution.

The MOU is available at:

https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/Safety/20190918_Five%20Commissions%20Climate%20Change%20MOU%20Final%20.pdf

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California contact: Terrie Prosper, Director, News and Outreach, California Public Utilities Commission, (415) 703-1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

Colorado contact: Terry Bote, External Affairs Manager, Colorado Public Utilities Commission, (303) 894-2827, terry.bote@state.co.us

Nevada contact: Peter Kostes, Public Information Officer, Nevada Public Utilities Commission, (775) 684-6118, pkostes@puc.nv.gov

Oregon contact: Kandi Young, Public Information Officer, Oregon Public Utility Commission, (503) 373-1571, kandi.young@state.or.us

Washington contact: Amanda Maxwell, Communications Director, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, (360) 664-1116, media@utc.wa.gov