

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

Application of Corix Utah City Heating and Cooling LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a Heat Corporation to Provide Heating and Cooling Services within the State of Utah	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>DOCKET NO. 25-2666-01</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR WITNESS TO APPEAR REMOTELY</u></p>
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ISSUED: December 1, 2025

On November 24, 2025, the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) filed a Motion for Ron Slusher to Appear Remotely at the evidentiary hearing scheduled¹ in this docket (“Motion”). Specifically, DPU seeks permission from the Public Service Commission (PSC) allowing DPU’s witness, Ron Slusher, “to appear remotely to provide testimony and answer cross examination questions from the parties [in this docket] and ... the Commission if needed.”²

DPU asserts its request is based on administrative efficiency and economy, but the Motion is silent on why or how Mr. Slusher’s remote participation will facilitate the claimed efficiency and economy. For example, the Motion does not assert that Mr. Slusher, DPU’s employee, resides outside of Utah or will be out of town during the hearing date.

While the PSC generally works to accommodate remote participation of non-local witnesses in recognition that it is significantly more convenient and less costly,

¹ DPU identifies the date for this hearing as being “scheduled to begin December 10, 2025.” Motion at 1. We assume this is a typographical error because the evidentiary hearing is scheduled to begin on December 9, 2025, with December 10, 2025, scheduled as an additional hearing day, if needed. See Scheduling Order, Notice of Technical Conference, and Notice of Hearing, issued August 28, 2025.

² Motion at 1.

the Motion offers no indication that Mr. Slusher is a non-local witness. The PSC prefers that testifying witnesses be present in the hearing room, and this preference is especially true in dockets where witnesses are employees of entities based in Salt Lake City, such as the DPU. Our preference is further based on our experience that the technology being used to facilitate a witness' remote participation may not, among other things, adequately allow an opportunity to appreciate that witness' demeanor, or to facilitate rigorous questioning, and the technology itself may present its own set of challenges and often provides a witness' presentation far inferior to in-person testimony. Moreover, a witness' remote participation can prove very challenging for the court reporter to accurately capture the testimony of that remote witness, which in turn can negatively affect the quality of the transcript of the proceeding. Thus, allowing the remote participation of witnesses in PSC proceedings is the exception, not the rule.

We will, however, make an exception to our preference here based, in part, on the representation made by DPU that it is authorized to represent that all parties to this docket do not oppose the request made in the Motion. However, as a condition of granting the Motion, and to aid the PSC and the court reporter, if DPU chooses to have Mr. Slusher participate remotely in the hearing, DPU must submit to the PSC before 5:00 pm on Monday, December 8, 2025, a copy of the written summary that Mr. Slusher will use in providing his direct testimony.

DOCKET NO. 25-2666-01

- 3 -

Accordingly, and subject to the foregoing condition, good cause exists and the Motion is granted.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, December 1, 2025.

/s/ Jerry D. Fenn, Chair

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ John S. Harvey, Ph.D., Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
PSC Secretary
DW#342880

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on December 1, 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

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