

➤ **Summary of 60-Day Notice: Application from Globeville for the Higher Emissions Community Designation**

The following revised 60-Day Notice summarizes Public Service Company of Colorado’s (“Public Service” or “the Company”) action to update Parties of the Company’s review of applications to designate new higher emissions communities (“HEC”) that would be eligible for enhanced incentives under certain commercial and multifamily housing programs within the Company’s 2021-2023 Transportation Electrification Plan (“TEP”). This could result in new communities being identified for designation as an HEC. Included in this 60-Day Notice is a detailed summary and recommendation for the application received from Mainspring LLC to request the designation of the community of Globeville as an HEC. This 60-Day Notice is issued in compliance with Decision No. C21-0017 in Proceeding No. 20A-0204E.

A copy of this notice will be available on our website at:

[www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates\\_and\\_regulations/filings/transportation\\_electrification\\_plan](http://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/transportation_electrification_plan)

**Background and Case History: Identification of Higher Emissions Communities**

In Decision No. C21-0017, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) approved the Company’s proposal to work with stakeholders to determine a methodology to be used to identify HECs and recognized the Climate Equity Framework developed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (“CDPHE”) as an appropriate means of identifying these communities.

Public Service has developed an application process for projects or communities that are not within an identified HEC census block group but may be experiencing a disproportionate environmental burden within their community. The Company conducted several individual meetings with stakeholders to present the approach, receive input, and further refine the methodology. The Company also presented the developed methodology and the identified census block group areas to stakeholders at a TEP Stakeholder meeting held on April 27, 2021. As approved in Commission Decision No. C21-0017, the Company will dedicate a minimum of 15 percent of the total 2021-2023 TEP budget, 15 percent of the Advisory Services portfolio budget, and 30 percent of the Partnerships, Research, and Innovation portfolio budget to support income-qualified customers and HECs. By identifying these HECs, it allows for certain projects within the Company’s Multifamily Housing and Commercial portfolios that take place within these identified communities to become eligible for enhanced rebates. The Commission recognized this process as a critical step towards achieving the public policy goals of widespread transportation electrification and providing access for low-income customers as part of Senate Bill 19-077 (“SB 19-077”).

➤ **Higher Emissions Communities Designation Application for Globeville**

**A. Application Discussion**

*Overview*

The Company received an application to designate a new HEC from one party – Mainspring, LLC (“Mainspring”) – seeking to designate the community of Globeville as an HEC. Mainspring is a real estate and business development firm based in Denver, Colorado.

*Application Summary – Globeville*

The applicant is seeking to designate the entirety of the Globeville community in North Denver, including a site that Mainspring<sup>1</sup> is developing at 4500 Broadway, which surrounds the bisection of interstates I-25 and I-70, as an HEC. Globeville is a target neighborhood in the City and County of Denver's Neighborhood Equity & Stabilization (“NEST”) initiative. The NEST initiative was created in 2018 to preserve the culture and character of neighborhoods experiencing significant change.<sup>1</sup> Most of the Globeville neighborhood is already designated as an HEC (See Figure 1 on page six). The Company identified one census block group at the core of the Globeville neighborhood that is not designated (Federal Information Processing Standard (“FIPS”) 80310015002), and therefore it is the recommended focus for designation consideration. The property located at 4500 Broadway that was referenced in the application is already included in a designated HEC. The Company has communicated this information to Mainspring. However, after a review of the data, the Company deemed it important to move forward with considering the original request to designate the entirety of Globeville, including census block group 80310015002 as an HEC given the robust evidence of environmental burden and disproportionately impacted communities in this area.

**B. The Company’s Recommendations for New HECs**

The Company recommends approving an HEC designation for the entirety of Globeville. The following table summarizes the Company’s designation recommendations for all census block groups in Globeville. The forthcoming discussion explains in further detail the Company’s considerations for making these recommendations.

**Table 1: Summary of Recommendations for New HECs in Globeville**

<b>Block Group FIPS (from 2010 Census)</b>	<b>HEC Designation Recommendation</b>
080310015001	Already Designated
080310015003	Already Designated
80310015002	Approve

<sup>1</sup> The Globeville neighborhood boundary was received by the Partners in Energy team as part of the NEST GIS layer from the City and County of Denver for another electric-vehicle community project. This NEST Globeville neighborhood boundary was used for purposes of reviewing and evaluating this application for designation as a Higher Emissions Community.

**Discussion**

The Company conducted a rigorous process to validate the claims stated by Mainspring on the submitted application. As described earlier, the Company needed to validate if the proposed areas sufficiently met the definition of an HEC of demonstrating an environmental burden exists at the location, that the location houses disproportionately impacted (“DI”) communities, and that the HEC designation could be reasonably expected to increase Electric Vehicle (“EV”) access for DI populations or provide another related benefit to these populations. Additionally, the Company had requested that applicants indicate whether they had submitted any program incentive applications related to potential HEC designation as requested in question two of the HEC designation application.

**Environmental Burden**

The applicant notes that the area proposed for designation is one of the nation's most polluted area codes, and that the area is subject to air pollution from a nearby refinery, interstate highways and interchange, heavy industry, and Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) designated Superfund sites. Data from EPA's EJ Screen (Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool version 2.0) help support these claims in that the diesel particulate matter (“PM”) emissions are in the 100th percentile for the census block group under consideration. Additional EJ Screen data for this census block group, show that both the traffic proximity and volume score and the Risk Management Plan (“RMP”) Facilities score (count of potential chemical accident management plan facilities within 5 km) fall in the 99th percentile.<sup>2</sup>

Review of the CDPHE Climate Equity Data Viewer tool for the proposed area for designation shows an environmental burden score of 99.58. This score represents how many environmental burdens, like air pollution and climate impact, are present relative to the rest of the state. The score is a weighted average of the environmental exposure, environmental effects, and the climate results. This high score for the proposed designation area helps demonstrate the applicant's claims about pollution exposure and other environmental impacts.

For these reasons, the Company concludes that this application demonstrates that environmental burdens exist within the proposed designation area. These environmental burdens include exposure to traffic, diesel particulate matter, industrial activities, and Superfund sites. For a summary of the above metrics, please reference Table 2.

**Table 2: Environmental Burden Metrics for Proposed Census Block Group**

<b>Block Group FIPS (2010 Census)</b>	<b>Diesel PM Emissions Percentile</b>	<b>Traffic Proximity Score</b>	<b>Risk Management Plan (RMP) Facilities Score</b>	<b>Environmental Burden Score</b>
80310015002	100 percentile	99 percentile	99 percentile	99.58

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<sup>2</sup> All percentiles are calculated in comparison to the rest of the state of Colorado.

### Presence of Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The applicant notes that the Globeville area has 68 percent of residents that identify as Hispanic or Latino and residents living at an average income level of \$39,200, which is almost half of the Denver average of \$73,100.

The census block group identified for designation consideration as an HEC is identified as a DI community in Colorado based on factors identified in the Environmental Justice Act (House Bill 21-1266). The DI data show a population that is 69.71 percent people of color and 42.74 percent low income in the census block group under consideration. Data from EPA EJ Screen further validate these claims for this census block group, as its low-income value is in the 82nd percentile and its people of color value is in the 91st percentile.

Review of the CDPHE Climate Equity Data Viewer tool for the census block group under consideration shows a population characteristics score of 93.43. This score represents a community’s sensitivity to environmental burdens and other social determinants of health. It is a combination of the socioeconomic and sensitive population results. The score goes from 0 to 100, with the higher score representing communities that may be hardest hit by climate change. This high score helps illustrate that there are populations in the area that are sensitive to environmental exposures (from a health perspective).

For these reasons, we conclude that this application sufficiently identifies population(s) that bear a disproportionate environmental impact in this location, including low-income households and people of color. For a summary of the above metrics, please reference Table 3.

**Table 3: Disproportionately Impacted Community Metrics for Proposed Census Block Group**

Block Group FIPS (2010 Census)	Colorado DI	DI Community Reason <sup>3</sup>	Percent Low Income <sup>4</sup>	Percent People of Color <sup>5</sup>	Low-Income Score	People of Color Score	Population Characteristics Score <sup>6</sup>
80310015002	Yes	More than One Category	42.74%	69.71%	82 percentile	91 percentile	93.43

### Anticipated EV Benefits to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The applicant notes that the area proposed for designation suffers from poor air quality due to industry and high traffic transportation corridors. The applicant further identifies that the Globeville neighborhood has EV charging gaps and explains that the nearest public chargers are greater than 1 mile away. Upon a review of public chargers in the area using a tool from the Alternative Fuels Data Center, the Company notes that the nearest public fast chargers to census block group 80310015002 appear to be at least a few miles away, with only a few Level 2 chargers

<sup>3</sup> These reasons are sourced directly from the “Data Viewer for Disproportionately Impacted Communities in Colorado,” available at the following link: [Workbook: EJ Act DI Communities - Public \(state.co.us\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> Source: CDPHE Climate Equity Data Viewer

<sup>5</sup> Source: CDPHE Climate Equity Data Viewer

<sup>6</sup> Source: CDPHE Climate Equity Data Viewer

located in the immediate proximity of the area.<sup>7</sup> The application notes that designation as an HEC will help bring resources to address the EV infrastructure gap in the area. For these reasons, we conclude that HEC designation of the census block group will help support transportation electrification adoption in and beyond the Globeville neighborhood, and that the benefits of transportation electrification may benefit disproportionately impacted residents.

### **Project Application Status**

The applicant did not elaborate on future projects in the description field of the HEC designation application. The EV Advisor team has been discussing the possibility of Mainspring seeking Company support for workplace charging for electric vehicle supply infrastructure at several addresses in the Denver area, including for a site Mainspring is developing at 4500 Broadway, which is an address in Globeville located within an existing HEC. Since the submission of this HEC designation application, Mainspring has applied for the EV Small Business Rebate for a project at 4500 Broadway.

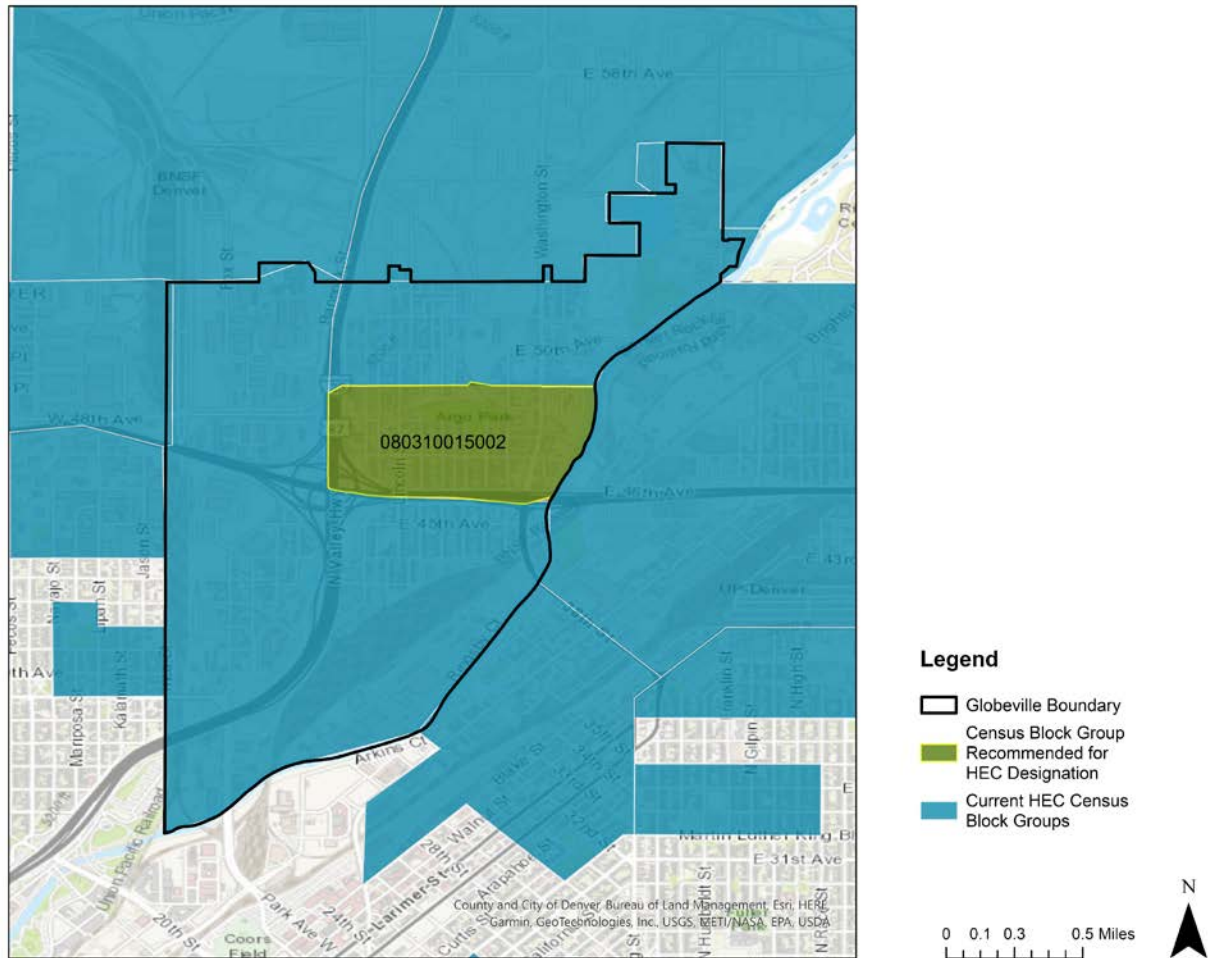
### **Full Recommendation**

The Company recommends designation of census block group 80310015002, which is the only census block group in Globeville that is not already designated as an HEC. The applicant and supporting data have clearly demonstrated the presence of an environmental burden, disproportionately impacted communities, and anticipated benefits to these communities should EV charging be installed in the future. As such, the designation of this new area is justified. This recommendation would result in the entire community of Globeville becoming designated as an HEC. Figure 1 below illustrates this recommendation in detail.

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<sup>7</sup> See Alternative Fuels Data Center, "Electric Vehicle Charging Station Locations, available at [https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity\\_locations.html#/analyze?fuel=ELEC&region=US-CO&show\\_map=true&ev\\_levels=dc\\_fast](https://afdc.energy.gov/fuels/electricity_locations.html#/analyze?fuel=ELEC&region=US-CO&show_map=true&ev_levels=dc_fast)

**Figure 1: Summary of Census Block Group Recommendations for Globeville and Adjacent to Current HECs**



#### D. Stakeholder Involvement

The Company has been receiving support from Partners in Energy in conducting community outreach to HECs and communities who may be interested in the designation in order to be eligible for the Company’s enhanced TEP program offerings. Thus far in 2022, their outreach to customers and communities in the HEC designation process has included informational webinars, individual customer and community meetings and email correspondence, presentations at local events, and informational meetings with partners such as the Colorado Energy Office’s ReCharge coaches and the Regional Air Quality Council’s Local Government Committee. Partners in Energy has also provided technical assistance to stakeholders seeking an HEC designation. Once the Company received applications to designate new HECs, the Partners in Energy team assisted the Company with conducting an initial review of the applications. In addition, the Company has discussed the new HEC designation topic in the quarterly TEP stakeholder meetings, including the 2022 Quarter 1 and Quarter 2, and the 2021 Quarter 2 and Quarter 3 meetings.