Boulder, Xcel again will request more time to negotiate, city says

Scheduled March 5 City Council hearing has been postponed

By Alex Burness

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Boulder and Xcel will make another joint request to the Public Utilities Commission for more time to work on the agreements the two parties must reach before the city's separation plan can officially win the partial approval of the commission, city spokesman Ben Irwin said.

When the commission granted that partial approval in the fall of 2017, it gave Boulder and Xcel three months to reach three separate agreements: one to allow Xcel to permanently place and access facilities in the city that it needs to serve its remaining customers; one with a revised asset list that corrects "errors and omissions" from what was originally submitted; and a final agreement addressing the city's payment to Xcel for costs the company incurs facilitating separation.

Three months would not be enough time, the parties told the commission late last year, before being granted <u>another three months to negotiate</u> and then present the agreements by March 13.

<u>In a public meeting on Monday</u>, city officials stated that the first two of those three mandatory agreements are done, but that the third agreement, concerning costs, is not complete.

Irwin said the parties will request a second extension, beyond the March 13 deadline, but that nothing had been filed yet to the commission.

As a result of this planned action, the scheduled March 5 City Council hearing on municipalization has been postponed.

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