

Ronald J. Binz
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Employment History

1995-present President, Public Policy Consulting

Consultant, specializing in energy and telecommunications regulatory policy issues. Assignments include strategic counsel to clients and research and testimony before regulatory and legislative bodies. Since 1995, a wide range of clients has included: consumer advocate offices, rural electric utilities, senior citizen advocacy groups, environmental groups, industrial electric users, homebuilders, building managers, telecommunications resellers, incumbent local exchange companies, low-income advocacy organizations, and municipal utilities. I have testified as an expert witness before regulatory commissions in twelve states.

1996-2003 President and Policy Director, Competition Policy Institute

Competition Policy Institute was an independent non-profit organization that advocated for state and federal policies to bring competition to energy and telecommunications markets in ways that benefit consumers. Duties included: determining the organization's policy position on a wide range of telecommunications and energy issues; conducted research, produced policy papers, presented testimony in regulatory and legislative forums, hosted educational symposia for state regulators and state legislators.

1984-1995 Director, Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel

Director of Colorado's first state-funded utility consumer advocate office. By statute, the OCC represents residential, small business and agricultural utility consumers before state and federal regulatory agencies. The office was a party to more than two hundred legal cases before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the courts. Annual office budget was \$1 million.

Managed a staff of eleven, including attorneys, economists, and rate analysts who conduct economic, financial and engineering research in public utility matters.

Testified as an expert witness on subjects of utility rates and regulation. Negotiated rate settlement agreements with utility companies. Regularly testified before the Colorado general assembly and spoke to professional business and consumer organizations on utility rate matters. Consulted with advisory board of consumer leaders from around the state.

Held leadership roles in National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. Member of high-level advisory boards to Federal Communications Commission (Network Reliability Council and North American Numbering Council) and Environmental Protection Agency (Acid Rain Advisory Council). Frequent witness before congressional committees and invited speaker before national industry and regulatory forums.

1977-1984 Consulting Utility Rate Analyst

Represented clients in public utility rate cases and testified as an expert witness in utility cases before regulatory commissions in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota. Clients included state and local governments, low income advocacy groups, irrigation farmers and consumer groups.

Testimony spanned topics of telephone rate design, electric cost-of-service studies, avoided cost valuation of nuclear generation, electric rate design for irrigation customers and municipal water rate design.

1975-1984 Instructor in Mathematics

Taught mathematics at the University of Colorado, Denver and Boulder campuses. Nominated three times for outstanding part-time faculty member.

1971-1974 Manager, Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Managed major medical claims processing department. Responsibilities included budgets, hiring, training, managing supervisors, and coordinating with medical peer review committee.

Other Business Interests

1994-present Managing Partner, Trail Ridge Winery

Managing Partner and Secretary/Treasurer of Trail Ridge Winery. Trail Ridge is a Colorado winery located in Loveland, Colorado, producing a variety of wines from Colorado-grown grapes. Duties include service on board of directors; duties of corporate secretary/treasurer; development of business plans; legislative, regulatory and other external affairs; assistance in winery operations and tasting room; assistance in public relations and marketing.

Education

M.A. (Mathematics) 1977. University of Colorado. Course requirements met for Ph.D.

Graduate courses toward M.A. in Economics 1981-1984. University of Colorado. Twenty-seven hours including Economics of Regulated Industries, Natural Resource Economics, Econometrics.

Advanced Course in Utility Regulation 1986. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

B.A. with Honors (Philosophy) 1971. St. Louis University.

Diploma 1967. Catholic High School, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Professional Associations and Activities

Colorado Legislative Task Force on Information Policy, Gubernatorial Appointee 2000-2001

National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates

President 1991-1992, Vice-President 1990, Treasurer 1987-1989

Chair, Telecommunications Committee 1992-1995

Network Reliability Council to the Federal Communications Commission

North American Numbering Council to Federal Communications Commission, Co-Chair

Harvard Electric Policy Group, John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University

Denver Mayor's Council on Telecommunications Policy

Exchange Carriers Standards Association Network Reliability Steering Committee

Colorado Telecommunications Working Group, Gubernatorial Appointee

Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation, Board Member, Past President

Legislative Commission on Low-Income Energy Assistance, Past President

Colorado Public Interest Research Foundation, Board Member

Colorado Common Cause, Board Member

Acid Rain Advisory Council to the Environmental Protection Agency

Outreach Committee, Western States Coordinating Council Regional Planning Committee

Total Compensation Advisory Council to the State of Colorado Department of Personnel

New Mexico State University Public Utilities Program, Faculty and Advisory Council

Aspen Institute for Humanistic Studies, Telecommunications Policy Meetings 1986-1997

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Who's Who in Denver Business

Council on Economic Regulation, Past Fellow

Colorado Wine Industry Development Board, Chairman

American Vintners Association (*now* WineAmerica), Executive Committee, Membership Chair

Recent Regulatory Testimony and Presentations

Since 1977, Mr. Binz has participated in more than 150 regulatory proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Federal Communications Commission, State and Federal District Courts, the 8th Circuit, 10th Circuit and D.C. Circuit Courts of Appeal, the U.S. Supreme Court and state regulatory commissions in California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Missouri, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. He has filed testimony in approximately sixty proceedings before these bodies. His testimony and comments have addressed a wide variety of technical and policy issues in telecommunications, electricity, natural gas and water regulation. Following is a sample of recent testimony and presentations before regulatory commissions.

Testimony

Before the Public Service Commission of Missouri. In the Matter of the Tariffs of Aquila, Inc., d/b/a Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P Increasing Electric Rates for the Services Provided to Customers in the Aquila Networks-MPS and Aquila Networks-L&P Service Areas. Testimony on behalf of AARP-Missouri. Docket No. ER-2007-0004. (to be filed January 2007)

Before the Public Service Commission of Missouri. In the Matter of Union Electric Company d/b/a AmerenUE for Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates for Electric Service Provided to Customers in the Company's Missouri Service Area. Testimony on behalf of AARP-Missouri. Docket No. ER-2007-0002. (to be filed December 2006)

Before the Utah Public Service Commission. In The Matter Of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of Its Proposed Electric Rate Schedules and Electric Service Regulation. Testimony on behalf of AARP-Utah. Docket No. 06-035-21 (September 2006)

Before the West Virginia Public Service Commission. In The Matter of the Petition of Verizon West Virginia, Inc. To Cease Rate Regulation of Certain Workably Competitive Telecommunications Services. Case No. 06-0481-T-PC Testimony on behalf of the Consumer Advocate Division. (June 2006)

Before the Utah Public Service Commission. In The Matter of the Division's Annual Review and Evaluation of Electric Lifeline Program, HELP Rate Design Testimony. Docket No. 04-035-21 (September 2005)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of YMCA of the Rockies. In re: YMCA of the Rockies, Complainant v. Xcel Energy (d/b/a Public Service Company of Colorado, Respondent. Rebuttal Testimony. Docket No. 05F-167G. (September 2005)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of YMCA of the Rockies. In re: YMCA of the Rockies, Complainant v. Xcel Energy (d/b/a Public Service Company of Colorado, Respondent. Direct Testimony. Docket No. 05F-167G. (June 2005)

Before the Michigan Public Service Commission. Testimony on behalf of the Michigan Attorney General. In The Matter Of SBC Michigan's Request For Classification Of Business Local Exchange Service As Competitive Pursuant To Section 208 Of The Michigan Telecommunications Act. Case No. U-14323. (March 2005)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel. In the Matter of the Combined Application of Qwest Corporation for Reclassification and Deregulation of Certain Part 2 Products and Services and Deregulation of Certain Part 3 Products and Services. Docket No. 04A-411T. (February 2005)

Before the Utah Public Service Commission. In The Matter Of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of Its Proposed Electric Rate Schedules and Electric Service Regulation. Rate Design Testimony. Docket No. 04-035-42. (January 2005)

Before the Utah Public Service Commission. In The Matter Of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of Its Proposed Electric Rate Schedules and Electric Service Regulation. Revenue Requirements Testimony. Docket No. 04-035-42. (December 2004)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of the Building Owners and Managers Association of Metropolitan Denver (BOMA) in the Matter of The Investigation And Suspension Of Tariff Sheets Filed By Public Service Company Of Colorado With Advice Letter No. 1411—Electric Docket No. 04S-164E (October 2004)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of Colorado Energy Consumers in the Matter of The Application of Public Service Company of Colorado for Approval of its 2003 Least-Cost Resource Plan. Docket No. 04A-214E (filed: September 2004)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of Colorado Energy Consumers in the Matter of the Application of Public Service Company of Colorado For An Order Authorizing It To Implement A Purchased Capacity Cost Adjustment Rider In Its PUC No. 7 – Electric Tariff. Docket No. 03A-436E. (filed: March 2004)

Before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. Testimony on behalf of Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC) and AARP In the Matter of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of a Power Cost Adjustment Mechanism. Docket No. 20000- ET-03-205 (filed: January 2004).

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel Regarding The Unbundling Obligations Of Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers Pursuant To The Triennial Review Order – Initial Commission Review. Docket No. 03I-478T. (January 2004)

Before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. Testimony on behalf of AARP in the matter of The Application Of PacifiCorp For A Retail Electric Utility Rate Increase Of \$41.8 Million Per Year Docket No. 20000-ER-03-198 (January 2004).

Before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. Public hearings testimony on behalf of AARP in the matter of an application by Kinder Morgan to modify the provider selection process in its Choice Gas Program. (December 2003).

Before the Public Service Commission of North Dakota. Testimony on behalf of AARP in the matter of In the Matter of the Notice of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for an Electric Rate Change. Case No. PU-399-03-296. (October 2003)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony in the matter of Public Service Company of Colorado's Advice Letter No. 598 – Natural Gas Extension Policy. Docket No. 02S-574G. (March 2003)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony in the remand hearings in the formal complaint case of the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Denver against Public Service Company. Docket 01F-071G. (January 2003)

Before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. Testimony on behalf of AARP in the matter of an application by PacifiCorp to increase rates, recover excess net power costs, and recover purchase power costs related to the Hunter Unit 1 outage. Docket No. 20000-ER-02-184. Testimony Concerning A Proposed General Rate Increase And Surcharge For Previous Power Costs. (November 2002).

Before the Wyoming Public Service Commission. Testimony on behalf of AARP in the matter of an application by PacifiCorp to increase rates, recover excess net power costs, and recover purchase power costs related to the Hunter Unit 1 outage. Docket No. 20000-ER-02-184. Testimony Concerning Hunter Unit 1 Issues. (November 2002).

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.. Comments on behalf of the Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation. Docket No. 02R-196G. In the Matter of the Proposed Repeal and Reenactment of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities. (November 2002)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.. Testimony on behalf of Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Denver. Docket No. 02A-158E. In the Matter of the Application of Public Service Company of Colorado for an Order to Revise its Incentive Cost Adjustment. (April 2002)

Before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Testimony on behalf of Astaris, in the matter of Case No. IPC-E-01-43 concerning the buy back rates under an electric load reduction program. (January 2002)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony in matter of the investigation of Advice Letters 579 and 581 of Xcel Energy on behalf of Homebuilders Association of Denver. Dockets 01S-365G and 01S-404G. (January 2002)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony in the formal complaint case of the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Denver against Public Service Company. Docket 01F-071G. (August 2001)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony in the matter of the investigation and suspension of Advice Letter No. 566 of Xcel Energy on behalf of the Homebuilders Association of Metropolitan Denver. Docket No. 00S-422G. (November 2000)

Before the American Arbitration Association. In the Matter of Univance Telecommunications, Inc. v. Venture Group Enterprises, Inc. Arbitration No. 77 Y 147 00099 00 (November 2000)
Testimony of Ronald Binz at FCC Public Forum on SBC/Ameritech merger (May 1999)

Docket No. 97-106-TC -- Testimony of Ron Binz before New Mexico State Corporation Commission on Investigation Concerning USWest's Compliance with Section 271(c) of the Telecommunications Act (July 1998)

Before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. Testimony Concerning the Investigation of Telephone Numbering Policies. (March 1998)
Docket No. 6717-U C Testimony before the Georgia Public Service Commission Concerning the Service Provider Selection Plan of Atlanta Gas Company. (January 1997)

Case 96-C-0603 and Case 96-C-0599--Testimony of Ronald J. Binz on behalf of CPI before the New York State Public Service Commission concerning the Bell Atlantic/NYNEX Merger (November 1996)

Docket No. 96-388 - Direct Testimony of Ronald J. Binz, CPI, On Behalf of the Office of the Public Advocate (October 1996) State of Maine, Public Utilities Commission Joint Petition of New England Telephone and Telegraph Company and NYNEX Corporation for Approval of the Proposed Merger of a Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Bell Atlantic Corporation into NYNEX Corporation.

Application No. 96-04-038 - Direct Testimony of Ronald J. Binz, CPI, On Behalf of Intervener, Utility Consumers Action Network (September 1996) Before the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California In the Matter of the Joint Application of Pacific Telesis Group (Telesis) and SBC Communications (SBC) for SBC to Control Pacific Bell (U 1001 C), Which Will Occur Indirectly as a Result of Telesis' Merger With a Wholly Owned Subsidiary of SBC, SBC Communications (NV) Inc.

Presentation to Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service (April 12, 1996)

Testimony before the Texas Public Utility Commission on the Integrated Resource Planning Rule (March, 1996)

Presentations

“Trends in Telecommunications. Where are we going? Are we there yet?” The 2005 Regional Communications Law Forum 21st Century Telecommunications. Minneapolis, MN • (May 2005)

“The Future of Regulation for Rural Telcos” Presentation to the Colorado Telecommunications Association Annual Meeting, (February 2005)

“VoIP – Recent Developments” Presentation to CLE International, Telecommunications Law. Denver (December 2004)

"Looking Back on the 1996 Telecom Act." Presentation to CLE International, Telecommunications Law. (December 2003)

"How to Pay for Gas Line Extensions." Presentation to CLE International, Energy Regulatory Law. (October 2003)

"Are Telecommunications Customers Expecting Too Much Customer Service?" Presentation to the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (July 2003)

"Will We Need Regulatory Attorneys in Ten Years?" Presentation to CLE International. Denver, Colorado. December 2002.

"Section 271: Is it a '10' for Consumers?" Presentation to the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. Chicago, Illinois. November 2002

"CLEC Market Share--What do the Numbers Say?" Presentation to the Regional Oversight Committee of Qwest state regulators. Santa Fe, New Mexico. April 2002

"Public Utility Regulation and Low Income Issues," Presentation of Ron Binz before the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on behalf of the Colorado Energy Assistance Foundation, December 5, 2001.

"Some Natural Gas Issues," Presentation by Ron Binz for the Western Conference of Public Service Commissioners, June 14, 2000.

"Consumer Issues in Natural Gas Unbundling" -- Presentation of Ron Binz before the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (November 9, 1999)

Ron Binz Presentation to the 25th Annual Rate Symposium on Competition for small customers in natural gas markets (April 27, 1999)

"Best Practices in Telecommunications Regulation"; Presentation before NARUC Communications Committee and National Regulatory Research Institute at NARUC Winter Meeting (February 1999)

Congressional Testimony

United States House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, November 1999. Testimony concerning H.R. 2533, The Fairness in Telecommunications License Transfer Act of 1999.

United States Senate Judiciary Committee; Antitrust, Business Rights and Competition Subcommittee, April 1999. Testimony concerning S.467, The Antitrust Merger Review Act.

United States Senate Commerce Committee, Telecommunications Subcommittee, May 1998. Testimony in oversight hearings concerning the performance of the Common Carrier Bureau of the Federal Communications Commission.

United States Senate Judiciary Committee, Washington, D.C., September 1996. Presented testimony on behalf of the Competition Policy Institute on the competitive impact of proposed mergers of Regional Bell Operating Companies.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance of the Committee on Commerce, May 1995. Testimony presenting NASUCA's position on H.R. 1555 by Representative Fields.

United States Senate Subcommittee on Antitrust, Washington, D.C., September 1994. Testimony presenting NASUCA's position on S. 1822 by Senator Hollings.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Washington, D.C., February 1994. Presented testimony on H.R. 3636.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Economics and Commercial Law, Washington, D.C., October 1992. Supplemental testimony presenting NASUCA's position on legislation concerning the Modified Final Judgment introduced by Representative Brooks.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, Washington, D.C., October 1991. Testimony on RBOC entry into telecommunications manufacturing and information services.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Economics and Commercial Law, Washington, D.C., August 1991. Testimony presenting NASUCA's position on possible federal legislation concerning the Modified Final Judgment.

United States Senate Subcommittee on Energy Regulation and Conservation, Denver, Colorado, April 1991. Testimony presenting NASUCA's position on federal legislation concerning regulation of the natural gas industry, introduced by Senator Wirth.

United States Senate Communications Subcommittee, Washington, D.C., February 1991. Testimony on behalf of NASUCA concerning S.173, telecommunications legislation introduced by Senator Ernest Hollings.

United States Senate Communications Subcommittee, Washington, D.C., July 1990. Testimony on behalf of NASUCA concerning S.2800, telecommunications legislation introduced by Senator Conrad Burns.

United States House of Representatives Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, July 1988. Testimony on the FCC Price Cap proposal.

Legislative Testimony

New Mexico State Legislature, Joint Oversight Committee on Regulation. November 2003. Testimony concerning the appropriate regulatory treatment of mid-sized telecommunications carriers.

Wyoming State Legislature, Senate Committee on Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions. February 2003. Testimony on legislation to create a division of utility consumer advocate within the Wyoming Public Services Commission.

Colorado General Assembly. March 2004. Testimony on the impact on retail utility rates of a renewable energy portfolio standard.

Colorado State Senate and Colorado House of Representatives 1984-1995. Frequent witness on variety of energy and telecommunications issues.

Georgia State Legislature Interim Committee on Natural Gas Competition. Fall 1996. Testimony on the consumer impacts of restructuring the natural gas industry in Georgia.

Iowa General Assembly, Des Moines, Iowa, November 1992. Testimony on legislation concerning incentive regulation.

American Legislative Exchange Council, November 1999. "The Changing Role of Public Utilities Commissions"

American Legislative Exchange Council concerning Rights-of-Way and Competition in Telecommunications, July 1998.

American Legislative Exchange Council Committee on Rights of Way. Testimony on rights of way policies, taxation and telecommunications development. May 1998.

Publications

Mr. Binz has published two reports, funded by the Energy Foundation, of the impact of a renewable energy standard in Colorado:

The Impact of the Renewable Energy Standard in Amendment 37 on Electric Rates in Colorado. (September 2004)

The Impact a Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard On Retail Electric Rates In Colorado. (February 2004)

Mr. Binz is the co-author of two major reports on electric industry restructuring:

Navigating a Course to Competition: A Consumer Perspective on Electric Restructuring.

Addressing Market Power: The Next Step in Electric Restructuring.

In the telecommunications area, Mr. Binz published a major discussion paper entitled ***Qwest, Consumers and Long Distance Entry: A Discussion Paper.***

These publications (along with copies of other testimony and reports) are available at the Public Policy Consulting website: www.rbinz.com.