Decision No. C24-0087-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0049G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 1029 - GAS FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE ITS COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 6 - GAS TARIFF TO INCREASE JURISDICTIONAL BASE RATE REVENUES, IMPLEMENT NEW BASE RATES FOR ALL GAS RATE SCHEDULES, AND MAKE OTHER PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE

Mailed Date: February 9, 2024
Adopted Date: February 7, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On January 29, 2024, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed its Motion for Approval of Alternative Forms of Notice (Motion). By Advice Letter No. 1029 – Gas, also filed on January 29, 2024, the Company filed its Phase I (revenue requirement) filing to revise rates for all natural gas services and to make additional tariff changes in the Company's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas tariff.

2. Public Service states that, pursuant to §40-3-104(1)(a), C.R.S, it has proposed a February 29, 2024 effective date for the rates and tariff changes in the proceeding. However, Public Service also states that it expects the Commission to set the matter for hearing and suspend the effective date of the tariffs, pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S., and Rule 1210, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1, which would result in a tariff effective date of November 5, 2024, after the end of the maximum 250-days suspension period. Advice Letter No. 1029 – Gas requests that the Commission

establish an effective date of November 1, 2024, for the tariffs adjudicated in this proceeding and certify this advice letter and the tariff filing for completeness pursuant to § 40-3-102.5(1)(b), C.R.S., and Temporary Rule 4109(f) of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities, 4 CCR 723-4.

3. Based upon the Company's anticipation that the Commission will set the matter for hearing and suspend the effective date of the tariffs pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S., Public Service seeks authority under § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., to provide an alternative form of notice of the 2024 Gas Rate Case to its affected retail natural gas customers.

4. Public Service moves pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 1207(b), 4 CCR 723-1, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to provide alternative forms of notice for the Company's filing to its customers. Public Service requests Commission approval to use the following forms of notice:

a.) Publishing a legal notice, in the form attached to the Company's Motion as Attachment A, in The Denver Post, for two (2) consecutive Sundays, consistent with the requirements of § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(A), C.R.S.;

b.) Posting a copy of the entire 2024 Gas Rate Case filing (Advice Letter, tariffs, non-confidential testimony, and attachments) on the Company's website;

c.) Providing the customer bill onsert (attached as Attachment B to the Company's Motion) to Public Service's retail natural gas customers with all mailed and e-billed customer bills, which are expected to be mailed or e-billed, as applicable, during a regular billing cycle over the course of approximately five (5) weeks commencing approximately two (2) weeks after this filing; and,

d.) Providing an email within the first twenty (20) days of the thirty (30) day noticing period to all retail natural gas customers for whom the Company has an email address and who have elected to receive email notifications from the Company, in the form shown as Attachment C to the Company's Motion; and

e.) Providing email notification with a link to the bill onsert to Online View and Pay4 customers

5. Public Service maintains good cause exists for the Commission to approve the alternative form of notice, and that it will avoid incurring the expense that is entailed in other forms of statutory notice. The Company represents that the alternative forms of notice listed above will provide a means

for the vast majority of the Company's customers to obtain notice of the filing within twenty (20) days of the filing and provide actual notice of the filing to customers in advance of the intervention deadline expected to be set by the Commission. Additionally, Public Service asserts that the newspaper notices will provide the required information regarding the proposed tariff changes to the general public, is less costly than the procedures prescribed by statute, and provides nearly all customers the opportunity to obtain notice of the filing within twenty (20) days of the filing. The Company states that the proposed newspaper notice procedure is also reasonable because this alternative form of notice is in addition to notice that will be provided via bill onserts, which is permitted by § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(C), C.R.S., and via email, which is permitted by § 40- 3-104(1)(c)(I)(D), C.R.S. The Company notes that while § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(D), C.R.S., contemplates notice by sending a text message, that text messaging is primarily used for outages and restoration information, not for noticing purposes.

6. The Company also asserts that mailing a notice to each of its approximately 1.5 million Colorado natural gas customers is not an effective or reasonable method of providing notice. The Company argues that such mailed notice would be prohibitively expensive and those costs could be included in rates, and the notice may not be effective because timely delivery of the mailed notice before the end of the noticing period cannot be ensured. The Company concludes that the proposed alternative forms of notice listed above will provide the required information concerning the 2024 Gas Rate Case filing to the general public, including the estimated impact on average gas customers and that the proposed alternative notice is sufficient to alert affected customers and interested parties of the changes that the Company is proposing by its filing in a timely fashion.

7. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 CCR 723-1-1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a utility may request to provide an alternative form of notice of proposed tariff changes. We find that the alternative forms of notice Public Service proposes

in its Motion will provide sufficient notice to Public Service's customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice Public Service requests.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on January 29, 2024, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING February 7, 2024.

(S E A L)

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners