

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0155E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 868 - ELECTRIC FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO ELECTRIC, LLC DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO REVISE ITS P.U.C. NO. 11 TO INCREASE THE DEMAND-SIDE MANAGEMENT COST ADJUSTMENT, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE**

Mailed Date: April 23, 2024

Adopted Date: April 10, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On April 1, 2024, pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E) C.R.S. and Commission Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC (Black Hills or Company), filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion) applicable to Advice Letter No. 868-Electric. By Advice Letter No. 868-Electric, Black Hills seeks to amend its Demand Side Management Cost Adjustment ("DSMCA") calculation inputs, contained on Tariff Sheet No. 71 in the Rates section of its Colo. P.U.C. No. 11-Electric Tariff. The DSMCA is applicable to all retail customers and the proposed amendment will increase the DSMCA rate from 2.28 percent to 3.03 percent beginning July 1, 2024.

2. Black Hills seeks Commission approval to use the following forms of alternative notice:

- a. Filing with the Commission, and keeping open for inspection, Advice Letter No. 868-Electric, which amends its DSMCA calculation inputs, on Tariff Sheet No. 71, in the Rates section of its Colo. P.U.C. No. 11-Electric Tariff. The Company will also post on its website at the time of filing: (1) a Customer Notice attached herewith as Attachment 1-Customer Notice (“Customer Notice”) and (2) Advice Letter No. 868-Electric and its accompanying tariff sheet, for thirty (30) days. The website posting will include a reference to the applicable proceeding number. The applicable website address for the posting of Advice Letter No. 868-Electric, Attachment 1-Customer Notice, and the accompanying tariff sheet is: www.blackhillsenergy.com/filings.
- b. Printing a message on each applicable customer’s bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 868-Electric and its accompanying tariff sheet, and a toll-free phone number for assistance, beginning within one week of the filing of Advice Letter No. 868-Electric. The bill messages will run for one full billing cycle. The bill messages, by customer class, read as follows:

Residential:

“We filed to adjust our DSMCA rate effective July 1. If approved, an average residential bill will increase \$0.92 from \$118.18 to \$119.10, or 0.74%. The revision will increase annualized revenue by \$2.0M. For details, visit blackhillsenergy.com/filings or call 888-890-5554.”

Small Commercial:

“We filed to adjust our DSMCA rate effective July 1. If approved, an average small commercial bill will increase \$2.09 from \$392.87 to \$394.96, or 0.53%. The revision will increase annualized revenue by \$2.0M. For details, visit blackhillsenergy.com/filings or call 888-890-5554.”

Other Customers:

“We filed to adjust our DSMCA rate effective July 1. If approved, the revision will increase Annualized revenue by \$2.0M. Customers can call 719-546-5847 for information on how the proposed amendment may affect them.”

- c. Publishing a legal notice of Advice Letter No. 868-Electric (*i.e.*, Attachment 1-Customer Notice), with size dimensions of four columns width and 11 inches height, in three newspapers of general circulation for the service territory: 1) The Pueblo Chieftain (two consecutive Tuesdays); and 2) the Cañon City Daily Record (two consecutive

Fridays); and 3) the Rocky Ford Daily Gazette (two consecutive Thursdays).

3. Black Hills argues there is good cause for the alternative form of notice requested by this Motion. Black Hills believes that through noticing customers via bill messages, legal notice publication, and the required website posting, the Company will be able to reach all customers in the service territory in a manner more affordable and efficient than the notice prescribed by statute.

4. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 CCR 723-1-1207(b) a utility may request to provide an alternative form of notice of proposed tariff changes. We find that the alternative forms of notice Black Hills proposes in its Motion will provide sufficient notice to its customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice Black Hills requests.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice filed by Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC on April 1, 2024, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
April 10, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners