

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24L-0277G

IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION OF THE COLORADO NATURAL GAS INC FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO PUT INTO EFFECT CERTAIN GAS RATE ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS GAS COST RECOVERY RATES ON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION
AND DEEMING APPLICATION COMPLETE**

Issued Date: June 26, 2024

Adopted Date: June 26, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On June 14, 2024, Colorado Natural Gas, Inc. (“CNG” or “Applicant”), filed an application seeking a Commission order authorizing it, without formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice, to place into effect on July 1, 2024, an interim adjusting the Eastern Colorado Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”) Region.

2. CNG acknowledges that it has read and agrees to abide by the provisions of Rules 4002(b)(IV) through (VI) and Rules 4002(b)(XI)(A) through (C) of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (“CCR”) 723-4.

3. This application for authority to increase rates is made pursuant to § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., and Rule 4109(b)(II), 4 CCR 723-4.

B. Findings of Fact and Conclusions

4. Applicant is an operating public utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission and it is engaged in the distribution and resale of natural gas for domestic,

mechanical, or public uses in and around the communities served by the Eastern Colorado Division.

5. CNG's natural gas requirements for its four separate service areas are met through firm gas sales agreements, and a separate deferred account is maintained for each area. Supplies needed to serve CNG's Bailey area are transported for delivery to CNG's system via Public Service Company of Colorado's ("PSCo") system. CNG's Pueblo West service area is supplied by PSCo and Colorado Interstate Gas ("CIG"). CNG's Cripple Creek Service area is supplied by Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. ("BHCG") and CIG. CNG's Eastern Colorado Division is supplied by CIG. Pipeline delivery services provided by PSCo and BHCG are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

6. The Commission expects Applicant to negotiate the lowest price for supplies of natural gas that are consistent with the provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, 15 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3432 and applicable federal regulations or determinations made pursuant to applicable federal regulations.

7. The Commission's Gas Cost Adjustment ("GCA") Rules at 4 CCR 723-4-4602(a) require that CNG revise its GCA rates at least once per year to be effective on November 1 of each year. The instant filing is intended to comply with this requirement.

8. The purposes of the revision of Applicant's gas rates are: (1) to effectuate an increase in the level of natural gas costs charged to Applicant based on prices to be in effect July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024, applied to normalized forecasted purchase and sales volumes during the same test period; (2) to reflect costs for upstream pipeline services anticipated to be charged to Applicant by interconnecting pipelines for the same period; and (3) to adjust for

previous under or over recovered gas cost balance in Applicant's Deferred Gas Cost Account No. 191 as of June 30, 2023.

9. The revisions amount to an annualized revenue decrease of \$328,574 for the Eastern Colorado region. This represents a 21.55 percent decrease. CNG is proposing a \$.3888 GCA rate to be effective Jul 1, 2024.

10. CNG acknowledges its obligation under Rule 4604 to publish notice of the subject filing within three days after the filing of this application. Pursuant to Rule 1206(f)(I), Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1, the filing of this application has been or will be brought to the attention of Applicant's affected customers by publication in *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation in the areas affected.

11. The Commission finds good cause to allow the proposed revision on less-than-statutory notice.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application filed by Colorado Natural Gas, Inc. ("CNG") on June 14, 2024, for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted and deemed complete, for purposes of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.

2. CNG is authorized to file on not less than two days' notice the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision, in a separate new advice letter and tariff proceeding. These tariffs shall be effective for actual gas sales on or after their effective date of July 1, 2024.

3. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114, C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

4. This Decision is effective on its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
June 26, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER ERIC BLANK
ABSENT