

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 21L-0115ST

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO REVISE ITS STEAM COST ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2020 UPON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION
AUTHORIZING REVISIONS
TO THE STEAM COST ADJUSTMENT**

Mailed Date: March 26, 2021

Adopted Date: March 24, 2021

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statements, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On March 15, 2021, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Applicant) filed a verified application requesting a Commission decision authorizing it, without a formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice, to increase the Steam Cost Adjustment (SCA) Factor and place into effect on April 1, 2021, tariffs resulting in an increase to its existing SCA rate now on file with the Commission (Application).

2. The proposed tariffs are attached to the Application as Exhibit No. 1 and affect Applicant's customers in Colorado.

3. Included with the application is a request for a waiver pursuant to Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-1003 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, allowing Public Service to set the deferred account balance to zero while the Commission reviews the costs incurred in response to the extreme weather event from February 13 through 16, 2021, through separate procedural processes. The SCA deferred account balance is to be set

to zero rather than as of January 31, 2021, as there is an overcollection in the deferred account balance and to use the positive balance would send customers a price signal that steam service is cheaper than it actually is for the upcoming quarter, while February 2021 cost issues are determined.

4. In Decision No. R14-1217, Proceeding No. 14AL-0710ST issued October 6, 2014, Public Service was authorized to file quarterly revisions to its SCA factor.

5. Public Service, by this Application, requests authority to revise its SCA in accordance with Public Service's P.U.C. No. 1 – Steam Tariff. The effect of this Application, if approved, will be an increase in the rate to all of Applicant's steam customers of \$2.289 per one thousand pounds. The net effect of the revision requested herein on Public Service's revenue will be a quarterly increase of \$257,896 from the level of revenues yielded by the currently effective SCA based on test period sales volumes. The resulting rate increase due to the SCA to Applicant's average steam customer is 9.59 percent.

6. Public Service has mailed a notice to each affected customer as required in § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(B), C.R.S. Thus, the Applicant has met its statutory notice obligation.

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

8. The Commission finds good cause to grant the waiver of Public Service's tariff sheets while proceedings investigating the costs from February 2021 continue to unfold, and to allow this balance to be zero for the upcoming quarter so that steam customers are not sent inaccurate price signals. Accordingly, the deferred account balance for this SCA proceeding shall be zero.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application filed on March 15, 2021 by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) is deemed complete.

2. The application for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted.

3. The request for a waiver of the steam tariff to allow the deferred component of the Steam Cost Adjustment to be zero for the upcoming quarter is granted.

4. The application filed by Public Service requesting a decision of the Commission to increase the Steam Cost Adjustment application is granted.

5. Public Service is authorized to file, on not less than two days' notice, a new advice letter and the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision. These tariffs shall be effective for actual steam sales on or after their effective date of April 1, 2021.

6. 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.

7. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 24, 2021.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY



Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners