

Decision No. C21-0002-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20A-0379G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. FOR AUTHORIZATION TO IMPLEMENT A SYSTEM SAFETY AND INTEGRITY RIDER AS PART OF ITS GAS TARIFF AND TO UNDERTAKE ITS PROPOSED AT-RISK METER RELOCATION AND CUSTOMER-OWNED YARD LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING
INTERVENTION, SETTING SCHEDULING
CONFERENCE, AND REQUIRING PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE FILING**

Mailed Date: January 5, 2021
Adopted Date: December 16, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On September 11, 2020, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Black Hills or Company) filed a Verified Application (Application) for approval of a System Safety and Integrity Rider (SSIR), including authorization for a proposed At-Risk Meter Relocation (ARMR) and Customer-owned Yard Line (COYL) Replacement Program.

2. As discussed in detail below, we grant the intervention of Bachelor Gulch Village Association (BGVA), set a scheduling conference for January 19, 2021, and require Black Hills to confer with all parties and file a proposed procedural schedule by January 11, 2021.

B. Interventions

3. Trial Staff of the Commission (Staff) and the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) filed notices of intervention by right and are parties to this proceeding.

4. On October 12, 2020, Bachelor Gulch Village Association moved the Commission for leave to intervene in this proceeding. In support of its request, BGVA states that it participated in Black Hills' last rate case that involved a DSIR, and also notes that it is interested in the SSIR generally, and the at-risk meter replacement and yard line replacement programs, and that the approval of these programs may have disparate impacts for different rate areas and customer classes. It also states that it represents a pecuniary and tangible interest because as ratepayers, the cost to its members' may increase due to the outcome of the proceeding. BGVA also notes that neither Staff nor the OCC will adequately represent the specific interests of the roughly 475 Association members who are on the Western Slope. BGVA states that it has a specific interest in advocating for its members and gas rate area customers on the Western Slope. Finally, BGVA states that it "will represent its interests in a manner that will advance the just resolution of this proceeding" and believes its "intervention will not unduly broaden the issues or cause undue delay" to the proceeding.

5. No other party has opposed BGVA's intervention.

6. We find that BGVA's motion for leave demonstrates that the organization meets the standards for permissive intervention under 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1-1401 and we therefore grant the motion.

7. Accordingly, the parties in this proceeding are Black Hills, Staff, the Office of Consumer Counsel, and Bachelor Gulch Village Association.

C. Procedural Schedule

8. We will set a scheduling conference for January 19, 2021. Prior to the scheduling conference we require Black Hills to confer with all parties and file a proposed procedural schedule by January 11, 2021.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

- 1. The intervention request filed by Bachelor Gulch Village Association is granted.
- 2. A scheduling conference in this proceeding is set as follows:

DATE: January 19, 2021
 TIME: 9:00 a.m.
 METHOD: By video conference using GoToMeetings at link that will be provided to Parties by email

3. Black Hills shall confer with all parties and file a proposed procedural schedule by January 11, 2021.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
 December 16, 2020.**

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
 Director