

Decision No. C23-0741-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23A-0533G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2024 GAS PRICE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND TO APPROVE REVISED TARIFFS.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION ESTABLISHING
SHORTENED NOTICE AND INTERVENTION PERIOD**

Mailed Date: November 1, 2023

Adopted Date: November 1, 2023

TO THE PARTIES IN THIS MATTER AND ALL INTERESTED PERSONS, FIRMS,
OR CORPORATIONS:

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This Decision establishes a shortened notice and intervention period for the Application for Approval of a 2024 Gas Price Risk Management (GPRM) Plan (Application) filed by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) on October 31, 2023.

2. Requests for intervention, including a Notice of Intervention by right of Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Staff), shall be filed no later than **November 15, 2023**.

B. Discussion

3. Senate Bill (SB) 23-291, which was introduced in this most recent legislative session, requires Public Service to file a GPRM Plan by November 1, 2023, pursuant to § 40-3-120(1)(a), C.R.S. The GPRM Plan must include a maximum per-month fuel cost that

accounts for price fluctuations based on seasonality and can be automatically recovered through the Company's Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA). The plan may include other elements such as physical hedging, financial hedging, fuel storage, or long-term contracting. In addition, the Commission must allow any prudently incurred costs above the maximum to be recorded in a deferred balance that is recoverable and amortized over an appropriate timeline of no more than five years with financing costs, as determined by the Commission.

4. As explained in the Application, the proposed GPRM Plan incorporates two central features. The first is a maximum cap of the GCA equal to 180 percent of the five-year historical average of the Company's GCAs. Based on this data, the current maximum cap is \$7.80 per dekatherm (dth). The Application states that this upper limit for the GCA is proposed to prevent "bill shock," particularly in colder winter months when higher prices combined with higher demand for natural gas can have significant impact on customers' monthly bills.

5. The second main feature of the GPRM Plan is a minimum threshold of the GCA equal to 80 percent of the five-year historical average of Company GCAs. Based on this data, the current soft minimum threshold is \$3.46 per dth. Within these parameters, the Company would seek to build up a reserve fund, not to exceed \$75 million, during times when natural gas prices are low to help moderate customers' natural gas costs when market prices are historically high.

6. Public Service states in the Application that the Company developed the 2024 GPRM Plan with the support of Staff and the Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate and that the Company also conferred with them on the Application before it was submitted.

7. Public Service requests a shortened notice and intervention period of 14 calendar days for the Application to potentially have the GRPM Plan in place, if unopposed, for the bulk of the current heating season, starting with the first quarter GCA to be filed on December 15, 2023.

C. Findings and Conclusions

8. Rule 4 CCR 723-1-1206(d) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, states that unless shortened by Commission decision or rule, the intervention period for notice mailed by the Commission shall expire 30 days after the mailing date. Further, Rule 1206(3) requires the Commission's notice to state the date by which any objection, notice of intervention of right, or motion to permissively intervene must be filed.

9. We find good cause to grant Public Service's request for a shortened notice and intervention period. We establish a 14-day notice and intervention period from the effective date of this Decision.

10. Requests for intervention, including a notice of intervention by right of Staff, shall be filed no later than **November 15, 2023**.

11. The Application is available for public inspection by accessing the Commission's E-Filings System at: <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>. **This Decision is the Commission's notice that Public Service's Application for Approval of a 2024 Gas Price Risk Management Plan has been filed.**

II. ORDER**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. The request of Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) for a shortened notice and intervention period for the for its application for approval of a 2024 Gas Price Risk Management Plan, filed on October 31, 2023, is granted consistent with the discussion above.

2. Service of this Decision will provide notice of Public Service's application to all interested persons, firms, and corporations.

3. The notice and intervention period shall expire at **5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2023.**

4. Any person desiring to intervene or participate as a party in this proceeding, including Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, shall file a petition for leave to intervene, or under the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1, file other appropriate pleadings to become a party, no later than **November 15, 2023.**

5. All persons who file an objection, notice of intervention as of right, motion to permissively intervene, or any other appropriate pleading shall do so in accordance with the instructions set forth in the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure and this Decision.

6. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 1, 2023.**

(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