

Decision No. C23-0619-E

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 23M-0459EG

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IN THE MATTER OF ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM BENEFIT CHARGE FOR 2023-2024 PURSUANT TO 4 CCR 723-3-3412 AND 4 CCR 723-4-4412 TO BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2023.

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**COMMISSION DECISION SETTING AUTHORIZING  
REVISIONS TO THE ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM  
BENEFIT CHARGE RATES**

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Mailed Date: September 20, 2023

Adopted Date: September 6, 2023

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement**

1. The Energy Assistance System Benefit Charge (EASBC) is a fixed monthly charge collected by the regulated electric and gas utilities from all ratepayers unless the ratepayers opt-out or are otherwise exempted. The EASBC was enacted pursuant to Colorado House Bill 21-1105 and is codified in statute at § 40-8.7- 104(2.5), C.R.S. EASBC provides financial funding for income-qualified energy assistance programs.

2. Beginning on October 1, 2023, Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-4-4412(m) of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Rule 4 CCR 723-3-3412(m) of the Rules Regulating Electric Utilities, provide for the EASBC to be adjusted annually for inflation in accordance with any changes in the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood.

3. The Rule 4412(m)(I) and Rule 3412(m)(I) direct Commission staff to compute the charge adjusted by the index and send a letter to each utility setting the EASBC charge to be paid by customers during the next calendar year.

**B. Findings of Facts**

4. Staff has considered inflation in accordance with changes in the United States Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for All Items, for the latest available period of July 2022 to July 2023, at 4.7 percent.<sup>1</sup>

5. The EASBC, therefore, is computed as \$ 0.79 for the period starting October 1, 2023.

6. The following table summarizes the applicable EASBC charge:

<b>Effective On and After</b>	<b>Rate Schedules</b>	<b>EASBC - Monthly Charge</b>
October 1, 2021	All	\$0.50
October 1, 2022	All	\$0.75
October 1, 2023	All	\$0.79

7. The increase in monthly EASBC is, thus, \$0.04.

8. If necessary, a utility shall file a new advice letter and tariff on not less than two business days’ notice. The advice letter and tariff shall be filed as a new advice letter proceeding and shall comply with all applicable rules. In calculating the proposed effective date, the date the filing is received at the Commission is not included in the notice period and the entire notice period must expire prior to the effective date. The advice letter and tariff must comply in all substantive respects to this Decision to be filed as a compliance filing on shortened notice.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains/news-release/consumerpriceindex\\_denver.htm](https://www.bls.gov/regions/mountain-plains/news-release/consumerpriceindex_denver.htm)

**II. ORDER**

**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. A new miscellaneous proceeding is opened to notify electric and gas investor-owned utilities of the increase to the Energy Assistance System Benefit Charge (EASBC).

2. The EASBC shall increase to \$0.79. This new rate shall be effective October 1, 2023.

3. To the extent necessary, utilities shall modify their tariffs to comply with this Decision. The compliance filing will be filed as a new advice letter filing and will not be filed in the Proceeding number of this Decision.

4. Additional information concerning required action will be mailed in the form of a letter from Public Utilities Commission Director, Rebecca White.

5. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
September 6, 2023.**

(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

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Commissioners