

Decision No. C23-0827-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23AL-0588G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 38 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO REVISE ITS GAS COST ADJUSTMENT, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE**

Mailed Date: December 11, 2023

Adopted Date: December 6, 2023

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On December 1, 2023, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. (Black Hills or Company) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Forms of Notice (Motion) to apply to the Company's tariff changes in the Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) that Black Hills seeks to implement pursuant to Advice Letter No. 38 including approval of its quarterly GCA to take effect on January 1, 2024. Black Hill states that on December 1, 2023, it filed Advice Letter No. 38 to amend its GCA calculation inputs and tariff language on Tariff Sheet Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 30 and 65 of its Colorado P.U.C. No. 1 Tariff. Black Hills states the proposed tariff amendments will modify GCA rates and the GT-1 rate effective January 1, 2024.

2. Black Hills moves pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 1207(b), 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to provide alternative forms of notice for the Company's filing to its customers. Black Hills requests Commission approval to use the following forms of notice:

- Filing with the Commission and keeping open for public inspection new schedules stating plainly the changes to be made in the schedules then in force and the time when the changes will go into effect in Advice Letter No. 38;
- Posting on Black Hills' website: (1) a Customer Notice attached to Advice Letter No. 38 as Attachment No. 7 and (2) Advice Letter No. 38 and its accompanying schedules, for 30 days beginning within one week after the filing of Advice Letter No. 38;
- Printing a message on each applicable customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 38 and its accompanying schedules, as well as a toll-free phone number for assistance, beginning within one week after the filing of Advice Letter No. 38; and
- Publishing the Customer Notice, with size dimensions of four columns width and 11 inches height, in *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation for the service territory. Due to the expense, and the other methods of conveying notice to customers as set forth herein, the Customer Notice will be published on one occasion, within 10 days of the date of the Motion for Approval of Alternative Forms of Notice.

3. Black Hills maintains that good cause exists for the Commission to approve the proposed alternative form of notice and that it will avoid incurring the expenses that is entailed in other forms of statutory notice. The Company concludes the proposed alternative forms of notice will be sufficient to alert affected and interested parties to the tariff changes the Company is proposing, including by providing notice of the estimated impact on average electric customers.

4. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 CCR 723-1-1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a utility may request to provide alternative forms of notice of a tariff change. We find the alternative forms of notice the Company proposes in the Motion will provide sufficient notice to its customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice that the Company requests.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

- 1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice, filed by Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. on December 1, 2023, is granted.
- 2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

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

(SEAL)



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