

Decision No. C24-0281-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0049G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 1029 - GAS FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE ITS COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 6 - GAS TARIFF TO INCREASE JURISDICTIONAL BASE RATE REVENUES, IMPLEMENT NEW BASE RATES FOR ALL GAS RATE SCHEDULES, AND MAKE OTHER PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

**INTERIM DECISION ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE, GRANTING REQUEST TO VACATE
PREHEARING CONFERENCE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING
PROVISIONS FOR DISCOVERY**

Mailed Date: April 29, 2024

Adopted Date: April 24, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On January 29, 2024, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed Advice Letter No. 1029-Gas. Public Service seeks to amend its Colorado P.U.C. No. 6-Gas Tariff to reset the currently effective General Rate Schedule Adjustment (GRSA) as applied to all base rates currently in effect and make additional tariff changes.

2. By Decision No. C24-0129, issued on February 28, 2024, the Commission set for hearing and suspended the effective date of the tariff sheets filed with Advice Letter No. 1029-Gas for 120 days, to June 28, 2024, pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S.

3. By Decision No. C24-0235-I, issued April 16, 2024, the Commission suspended the effective date of the tariff sheets filed with Advice Letter No. 1029-Gas for an additional 130 days, to November 5, 2024, pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S. By the same decision, the

Commission established the parties to the Proceeding¹, set a prehearing conference for April 29, 2024, and required Public Service to confer with the parties and file a proposed procedural schedule by April 19, 2024.

4. On April 19, 2024, Public Service filed a consensus procedural schedule and provisions for discovery, also requesting the Commission vacate the prehearing conference on April 20, 2024. Public Service states that all intervenors support the proposed procedural schedule and provisions for discovery.

B. Discussion

5. The Parties in this matter proposed the following schedule:

Proposed Procedural Schedule	
Event	Date
Supplemental Direct Testimony	May 30, 2024
Answer Testimony	July 11, 2024
Rebuttal Testimony/Cross-Answer Testimony	August 15, 2024
Prehearing Motions	August 20, 2024
Corrections	August 22, 2024
Settlement Deadline	August 27, 2024 (two weeks prior to proposed settlement hearing dates)
Settlement Agreement and Testimony	August 27, 2024
Cross-Matrix/Witness Availability	August 27, 2024 (August 30, 2024, if settlement)
Evidentiary Hearing (if no Settlement)	September 4 (half day), 5, 6, 10, 11 (half day), and 12, 2024. Request reservation of September 16 and 17, 2024 if needed
Settlement Hearing (if Full or Partial Settlement)	September 10, 11 (half day), and 12, 2024
Statement of Position	October 4, 2024

¹ Parties to this proceeding are Public Service; Trial Staff of the Commission; the Colorado Office of Utility Consumer Advocate; Atmos Energy Corporation; the City of Pueblo, Colorado; Climax Molybdenum Company; Colorado Natural Gas, Inc.; Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.; and WoodRiver Energy, LLC.

6. The Parties also agree that Rule 4 Colorado Code of Regulations (CCR) 723-1-1405 governs discovery in this proceeding. The Parties agree to provide to each other workpapers supporting Supplemental Direct, Answer, Rebuttal, or Cross-Answer Testimony no later than three business days after the filing of such testimony.

C. Findings and Conclusions

7. We find that the proposed procedural schedule is appropriate, except for the proposed date for the filing of statement of position. The Company has requested a November 1, 2024, effective date for the tariffs filed with Advice Letter No. 1029-Gas and the 250-day statutory deadline is November 5, 2024, so we need sufficient time to deliberate and to issue a final decision. Therefore, statements of position should be filed no later than September 26, 2024, which is two weeks after the conclusion of any evidentiary hearing.

8. Additionally, we decline to reserve any additional days for an evidentiary hearing after September 12, 2024. We anticipate that the Parties will use the available hearing days efficiently.

9. Accordingly, we vacate the prehearing conference scheduled for April 29, 2024.

10. We acknowledge the Parties agreement to provide each other workpapers supporting Supplemental Direct, Answer, Rebuttal, or Cross-Answer Testimony no later than three business days after the filing of such testimony and to abide by Rule 1405 for discovery matters.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The consensus procedural schedule and provisions for discovery and workpapers filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on April 19, 2024, in accordance with Decision No. C24-0235-I, is adopted consistent with the modification discussed above.

2. The parties shall submit testimony and pleadings no later than the dates set forth in the proposed consensus procedural schedule, as discussed above.

3. If a settlement is not filed in this proceeding, an evidentiary hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: September 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12, 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 5, 6, 10 and 12, 2024
1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 4 and 11, 2024

PLACE: Commission Hearing Room A

4. If a settlement is filed in this proceeding, an evidentiary hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: September 10, 11, and 12, 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 10 and 12, 2024
1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on September 11, 2024

PLACE: Commission Hearing Room A

5. Procedures for the hearing, including provisions for in-person, remote (video conference), or hybrid participation, and the scheduling of one or more public comment hearings will be addressed by separate future decisions.

6. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
April 24, 2024.**

(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