

Decision No. C24-0316-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0188G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 44 OF BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC.
D/B/A BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO MODIFY ITS BLACK HILLS ENERGY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM TO TAKE EFFECT ON MAY 26, 2024.

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

Mailed Date: May 10, 2024

Adopted Date: May 1, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On April 24, 2024, 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 to the tariff changes in the Black Hills Energy Assistance Program (BHEAP) that Black Hills seeks to implement pursuant to Advice Letter No. 44. Black Hill states that on April 24, 2024, it filed Advice Letter No. 44 to amend its BHEAP rates and tariff language on Tariff Sheets Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 49E of its Colorado P.U.C. No. 1 Tariff. Black Hills states the proposed tariff amendments will modify BHEAP rates proposed to be effective May 26, 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. 44;
- Posting on Black Hills' website: (1) a Customer Notice attached to Advice Letter No. 44 as Attachment No. 6 and (2) Advice Letter No. 44 and its accompanying schedules, for 30 days beginning within one week after the filing of Advice Letter No. 44;
- Printing a message on each applicable customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 44 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. 44; 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 April 24, 2024, is granted.
- 2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
May 1, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners