

Decision No. C24-0456

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24L-0276G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO REVISE ITS GAS COST ADJUSTMENT TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, ON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION
AND DEEMING APPLICATION COMPLETE**

Issued Date: June 26, 2024

Adopted Date: June 26, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statements, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On June 14, 2024, Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service” or “Applicant”) filed a verified application requesting a Commission order authorizing it, without a formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice, to place into effect on July 1, 2024, tariffs resulting in a decrease to its existing natural gas rates now on file with the Commission. The application contains all materials required by the Commission’s rules and is complete.

2. Pursuant to Rule 1100(c) of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (“CCR”) 723-1, Public Service has filed under seal Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”) Exhibit Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 containing material that it claims is highly confidential, proprietary, and market-sensitive, as well as a public version of the exhibit with the confidential material redacted.

3. This application constitutes Public Service’s Quarterly GCA filing, under the Quarterly GCA mechanism provided for in the Stipulation and Agreement reached by the Staff

of the Public Utilities Commission, Colorado Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate, formerly known as Office of Consumer Counsel, and Public Service (“Parties”) pursuant to Decision No. C09-0596 in Proceeding No. 08A-095G issued June 9, 2009. Accordingly, this application was filed under both the Commission’s Gas Rules and the Quarterly GCA mechanism.

4. The proposed tariffs are attached to the application and affect Applicant's customers in its Colorado certificated areas on file with the Commission.

5. This application for authority to decrease rates is made pursuant to § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., and Rule 4 CCR 723-1-4109(b)(II).

B. Findings of Fact

6. Public Service is an operating public utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission and is engaged in, *inter alia*, in the purchase, transmission, distribution, transportation, and resale of natural gas in various certificated areas within the State of Colorado.

7. Applicant's natural gas supplies for sale to its residential, commercial, industrial, and resale customers, are purchased from numerous producer/suppliers located inside and outside of the State of Colorado. The rates and charges incident to these purchases are established through contracts between Applicant and the various producer/suppliers.

8. These gas supplies are either delivered directly into Applicant's natural gas pipeline system from wellheads, gathering systems, gas processing plant interconnections, or through several interstate pipeline and/or storage facilities with which Applicant is directly connected. The transportation of these gas supplies is made pursuant to service agreements between Applicant and upstream pipeline service providers based upon Applicant's system requirements for the various pipeline services, such as gathering, storage, and transportation.

These upstream pipeline service providers include Colorado Interstate Gas Company (“CIG”); Front Range Pipeline; Tallgrass Interstate Gas Transmission (“TIGT”); Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline, Inc. (“Southern Star”); Red Cedar Gathering Company and TransColorado Gas Transmission Company (“TCGT”).

9. CIG, TIGT, Southern Star and TCGT are interstate natural gas suppliers under the provisions of the Natural Gas Act of 1978, as amended, 15 U.S.C. §717, et seq., and the rates and charges for the various pipeline storage, transportation and other services to the Company are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. This Commission has no jurisdiction over the pipeline delivery rates of CIG, TIGT, Southern Star and TCGT, but it expects Applicant to negotiate the lowest prices for supplies of natural gas that are consistent with the provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, 15 U.S.C. §§ 3301-3432 and applicable federal regulations, or determinations made under applicable federal regulations.

10. Public Service acknowledges that the company has read and agrees to abide by the provisions of Rules 4002(b)(IV) through (VI) and Rules 4002(b)(XI)(A) through (C) of the Rules Regulating Gas Utilities, 4 CCR 723-4.

11. Public Service incorporates by reference information on file with the Commission in Proceeding No. 06M-525EG as required pursuant to Rule 4002(c).

12. In accordance with Rule 1003 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 CCR 723-1, Public Service is seeking one variance in this proceeding, from one sentence in the currently effective Sheet No. 50A of the Colo. PUC No. 6 Gas Tariffs relating to the GCA (“GCA tariff”), so that the Company can incorporate an additional deferred gas cost into the third quarterly GCA rate of 2024, on top of the additional cost incorporated as a result of the approved

Gas Price Risk Management (“GPRM”) Plan approved by the Commission in Decision No. C23-0796, mailed on November 30, 2023, in Proceeding No 23A-0533G.

13. The proposed tariffs are attached to this Decision as Appendix A. Due to the changes in the Gas Commodity Cost, the Deferred Gas Cost, and the Deferred Gas Reserve Tracker, the net effect of the revision in the GCA for the third quarter 2024 is a decrease of \$937,852 in Public Service’s July-September 2024 revenue, when compared to the revenue that would be collected under the current effective GCA rates.

14. The natural gas costs reflected in this filing are based on the New York Mercantile Exchange (“NYMEX”) July, August, and September 2024 daily Settlement Price for natural gas on the first business day of the month or June 1, 2024. The NYMEX price for each of those three months was adjusted for the basis differentials applicable to regional indices used by the Company for its gas purchases. The resulting Gas Commodity Cost and Deferred Gas Cost are \$3.724 and a negative (\$0.008) per Dth, as compared to the current \$3.502 per Dth and \$0.262 per Dth contained in the currently effective tariff.

15. Public Service affirms that the GCA is currently not impacted by gas transportation commodity discounts on its system as all discounted transportation commodity rates are in excess of the Current Gas Cost portion of the transportation charge (*i.e.*, gas balancing costs).

16. Pursuant to the Quarterly GCA Stipulation reached by the Parties in compliance with Decision No. C09-0596 in Proceeding No. 08A-095G, the filing of this application has been or will be brought to the attention of Applicant’s affected customers by means of a legal notice in a newspaper of general circulation, and a first of the month display advertisement. In addition,

Public Service, at its option, may continue press releases, call center voice activation messaging, and timely postings to its internet website, as long as such forms of notice and communication reasonably and effectively continue to provide information to customers.

17. Applicant anticipates that the adjustment in the GCA requested herein will bring future gas cost recovery amounts more closely in line with the predicted future price of gas.

18. The Commission finds good cause to allow the proposed decrease on less-than-statutory notice.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application filed by Public Service Company of Colorado (“Public Service”) is granted and deemed complete for purposes of § 40-6-109.5, C.R.S.

2. The request for temporary variance from one sentence in the currently effective Sheet No. 50A of the Colo. PUC No. 6 Gas Tariffs is granted.

3. The Application filed by Public Service for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted.

4. Public Service is authorized to file, on two days’ notice; the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision, to be effective on or after their effective date of July 1, 2024.

5. The 20-day period provided for in § 40-6-114, C.R.S., within which to file applications for Rehearing, Reargument, or Reconsideration begins on the first day following the effective date of this Decision.

6. This Decision is effective on its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
June 26, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rebecca E. White".

Rebecca E. White,
Director

COMMISSIONER ERIC BLANK
ABSENT