

Decision No. C24-0657-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0374G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 50 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO DECREASE THE GAS COST ADJUSTMENT RATE, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2024.

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

Issued Date: September 11, 2024

Adopted Date: September 11, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On August 30, 2024, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. (“BHCG” or the “Company”) filed a Motion for Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice (“Motion”) to apply to the tariff changes in the Gas Cost Adjustment (“GCA”) that BHCG seeks to implement pursuant to Advice Letter No. 50 including approval of its quarterly GCA to take effect on October 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, 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:

- a. 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. 50;
- b. Posting on BHCG’s website: (1) a Customer Notice attached to Advice Letter No. 50 as Attachment No. 7 and (2) Advice Letter No. 50 and its accompanying schedules, for 30 days beginning within one week after the filing of Advice Letter No. 50;

- c. Printing a message on each applicable customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 50 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. 50.
- d. Publishing the Customer Notice in *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation for the service territory. The Customer Notice will be published on one occasion, within ten days of the date of this Motion.

3. Black Hills maintains good cause exists for the Commission to approve the proposed alternative forms of notice. It argues the other forms of statutory notice will either be ineffective or will not be cost-effective. Black Hills asserts a bill message, unlike a bill insert, provides more visibility to the customer because it is presented on the first page of the bill, the website posting will provide the required information regarding the amended tariff to the general public, the toll-free phone number provided in the bill message will give customers a second option to learn more about the amended tariff if they cannot access the internet for the Company's website, and the newspaper publication will provide accessible and timely notice across the Company's entire service territory. The Company states the proposed alternative forms of notice will allow it to reach all customers in the service territory in an affordable and efficient.

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 in an efficient manner. 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 Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice, filed by, Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. on August 30, 2024, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective upon its Issued Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 11, 2024.**

(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

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners