

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 23N-0232GPS

IN THE MATTER OF THE NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION ISSUED TO BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. ON MAY 9, 2023.

**INTERIM DECISION OF
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE
G. HARRIS ADAMS
REQUIRING PARTIES TO CONFER AND STAFF
TO FILE QUARTERLY STATUS REPORTS**

Mailed Date: May 7, 2024

I. STATEMENT

A. Background

1. On May 11, 2023, the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) initiated this matter by issuing its Notice of Probable Violation (NPV) to Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. (Black Hills).

2. On June 12, 2023, Black Hills filed its Response to Notice of Probable Violation (Response) and supporting attachments with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission), requesting settlement and objecting to the allegations in the NPV.¹ Black Hills contends that the proposed violation should be dismissed and the proposed \$50,000 fine eliminated.²

3. On October 5, 2023, Staff filed its Entry of Appearance.

4. On March 20, 2024, the Commission referred this proceeding to an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) by minute entry.

¹ Response at 3.

² *Id.*

5. In order to keep the Commission informed, Staff will be ordered to file status reports as to progress in resolving the violations identified in the NPV and expectations regarding the filing of evidence of resolution and a motion to dismiss (or otherwise dispose of the proceeding). Thus, Staff shall confer with Black Hills and file quarterly status reports until evidence of resolution and a motion to dismiss (or otherwise dispose of the proceeding) is filed, commencing in three months.

II. ORDER

A. It is Ordered That:

1. Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) shall confer with Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. (Black Hills) quarterly and file quarterly reports, commencing on August 1, 2024, informing the Commission as to progress toward filing evidence of resolution and a motion to dismiss (or otherwise dispose of the proceeding), expectations regarding the filing of evidence of resolution and a motion to dismiss (or otherwise dispose of the proceeding), and whether any party believes it necessary to establish a new procedural schedule.

2. Staff shall file a status report of each quarterly conferral identified above on or before August 1, 2024, November 1, 2024, February 1, 2025, etc., or until evidence of resolution and a motion to dismiss (or otherwise dispose of the proceeding) is filed.

3. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

G. HARRIS ADAMS

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

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

Rebecca E. White,
Director