

Decision No. C03-1458

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 03L-542G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF
COLORADO FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO REVISE ITS THERM
CONVERSION ENERGY FACTORS UPON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE.

**COMMISSION ORDER AUTHORIZING REVISIONS OF
THERM CONVERSION ENERGY FACTORS**

Mailed Date: December 31, 2003
Adopted Date: December 30, 2003

I. BY THE COMMISSION:

A. Statements

1. On December 18, 2003, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Applicant) filed a verified application. Applicant seeks a Commission order authorizing tariffs to update Energy Factors now on file with the Commission for use in the conversion of metered volumes to therms without formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice. The proposed tariffs are proposed to go into effect on January 1, 2004.

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

3. This application for authority to change tariffs is made pursuant to § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., and Rule 41(e)(1) of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure*, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1.

B. Findings of Fact

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

5. Applicant's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 Gas Tariff, Sheet No. 13A, requires that the Energy Factors which are incorporated into the Therm Multiplier and consequently used to convert metered volumes to therms be revised on a quarterly basis, effective January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 of each year. This revision is to be based on an analysis of the Heating Value of the natural gas for each Btu Zone for the three-month period ending one month prior to these dates.

6. Public Service has completed the analysis of the Heating Value of its natural gas for each Btu Zone for the period September 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003, and is requesting a revision of its Energy Factors contained on Sheet No. 13A to reflect the result of this analysis. In accordance with the provisions of Sheet No. 13A of its P.U.C. No. 6 - Gas Tariff, Applicant proposes that this revision become effective with meter readings commencing January 1, 2004.

7. Applicant represents that there is no change in overall revenue because the revisions to the proposed Energy Factors reflect the most accurate Heating Value of the gas delivered to Applicant's natural gas customers based upon the most recent data available. Public Service's application to revise the Energy Factors filed on March 19, 1997 in Docket No. 97L-135G illustrates this concept on a theoretical basis.

8. Applicant requests that the Commission issue an order approving the proposed changes on less than 30 days' notice so that Applicant may place the requested revisions into effect starting with meter readings on January 1, 2004. Applicant could not have filed the proposed changes any earlier because the information necessary to compute the updated Energy Factors, which was derived from Btu Zone data for the September 1, 2003 through November 30, 2003 period, only recently became available. Public Service has been directed to file such applications to revise its therm conversion energy factors within 15 business days following the end of the applicable test period. In order to assist the Commission and Commission Staff in considering those applications, Public Service shall file all supporting workpapers at the time it files each application. (See Decision No. C96-1183, p.2, § 2.)

9. The filing of this application was brought to the attention of Applicant's affected customers by publication in *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation in the areas affected.

10. Good cause exists to allow the proposed changes on less-than-statutory-notice.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application filed by Public Service Company of Colorado for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted.

2. Public Service Company of Colorado is authorized to file, on not less than one day's notice, the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Order. These tariffs shall be effective for actual gas sales on and after their effective date of January 1, 2004.

3. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
December 30, 2003.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Bruce N. Smith
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

GREGORY E. SOPKIN

POLLY PAGE

JIM DYER

Commissioners