

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 19AL-0669G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO 959 FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE THE GENERAL RATE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

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

Mailed Date: December 13, 2019

Adopted Date: December 4, 2019

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On November 26, 2019, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion) to apply to the Company's Advice No. 959-Gas, also filed on November 26, 2019. By Advice No. 959-Gas, the Company seeks to revise its General Rate Schedule Adjustment (GRSA) applicable to all base rate elements contained in the natural gas sales and transportation rate schedules contained in the Company's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas tariff, except for Rate Schedules TF-FRP Surcharge and TI-FRP Surcharge, and that it is proposing associated language changes, effective January 1, 2020.

2. Public Service states that it is implementing the new GRSA rate in accordance with Decision Nos. C18-1158 and R18-0114-I in Proceeding No. 17AL-0363G and as contemplated by Proceeding No. 19AL-0215G, through which a temporary GRSA was implemented for seven months ending on December 31, 2019. The revisions will return the GRSA to the authorized 24.19 percent from the temporary 16.04 percent.

3. By its Motion, in addition to posting the proposed customer notice on its website and keeping the filing open for public inspection consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., Public Service seeks approval to use the following alternative form of notice:

(a) publishing a legal notice (attached to the Motion as Attachment A) in *The Denver Post*, on two consecutive Sundays: December 1, 2019, and December 8, 2019, consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(A), C.R.S.; and

(b) posting a copy of the GRSA filing package on the Company's website.

4. Public Service states that the proposed forms of notice are reasonable because newspaper notice provides nearly all customers the opportunity to obtain notice of the tariff changes during the first twenty days of the thirty day period prior to the January 1, 2020 effective date and because notice will also be provided on the Company's website. Public Service states that newspaper notice is less costly than the procedures prescribed by statute. It states that because this filing is in the nature of a compliance filing, it seeks to avoid additional expense that would be associated with bill messages.

5. To explain why it is not providing notice through text message or through email, Public Service states that it uses emails for significant filings such as rate review filings, and that it uses text messages primarily for outage and restoration information. Public Service states that e-mailing or text messaging customers for all filings could cause customer confusion and that there is a concern that frequent noticing or regulatory messages through e-mails or texts will cause customers to unsubscribe or opt out from receiving e-mails or texts.

6. As good cause to grant the motion, Public Service states that the proposed alternative notice should be sufficient to alert affected and interested parties of the changes proposed by the GRSA filing in a timely fashion. The Company states that it believes the requested alternative forms of notice will provide the required information concerning the GRSA filing to the general public, including the estimated impact to customers.

7. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a utility may request to provide an alternative form of notice of proposed tariff changes. We find the alternative form of

notice proposed by Public Service in its Motion to apply to Advice No. 959-Gas is reasonable with respect to the Company's stakeholders and its general body of gas ratepayers. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative form of notice requested by Public Service.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The request for alternative form of notice to apply to Advice No. 959-Gas proposed in the Motion for Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on November 26, 2019, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

A. **ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING December 4, 2019.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

FRANCES A. KONCILJA

JOHN GAVAN

Commissioners