

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0049G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 961 FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO INCREASE RATES FOR ALL NATURAL GAS SALES AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 7, 2020.

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

Mailed Date: February 20, 2020

Adopted Date: February 19, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On February 5, 2020, 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 Letter No. 961-Gas filed concurrently with the Motion. By Advice Letter No. 961, the Company proposes a combined Phase I (revenue requirement) and Phase II (cost allocation and rate design) filing to revise rates for all natural gas services and to make additional tariff changes in the Company's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas tariff (2020 Combined Rate Case).

2. Public Service includes that it has assumed a March 7, 2020 effective date for rates and tariff changes; however, the Company expects the Commission will set the matter for hearing and suspend the effective date of the tariffs.¹ In that event, the Company states it requests an effective date of November 1, 2020, after suspension.

¹ At the February 19, 2020, Commissioners' Weekly Meeting, in addition to granting the Motion, as amended, the Commission also set the matter for hearing, suspended the effective date of the tariffs, and referred the matter with the exception of this Motion, to an Administrative Law Judge, as provided through separate written decision.

3. By its Motion, and based on its anticipation that the Commission will set the matter for hearing and suspend the effective date of the tariffs pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S., in addition to posting customer notice on its website and keeping the filing available 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;

(b) posting a copy of the 2020 Combined Rate Case filing on the Company's website;

(c) providing the customer bill onsert attached to the Motion as Attachment B to Public Service's retail natural gas customers with all mailed and e-billed customer bills; and

(d) providing an email within the first 20 days of the 30-day noticing period to all retail natural gas customers for whom the Company has an email address and who have elected to receive email notifications from the company, in the form attached to the Motion as Attachment C.

4. Public Service states that the newspaper notice proposed is less costly than the procedures prescribed in the statute, and is a reasonable form of notice because it provides nearly all customers the opportunity to obtain notice of the filing within 20 days of the filing. The Company states that the proposed newspaper notice, in addition to the bill onsert, email, and website notices proposed, will be sufficient to notify parties that may be interested in the Company's 2020 Combined Rate Case filing.

5. On February 10, 2020, the Company filed an Amended Motion for Alternative Form of Notice (Amended Motion). The Amended Motion revises only the publication dates for the newspaper notice proposed to the consecutive Sundays of February 16 and 23, 2020, instead of the originally proposed dates of February 9 and 16, 2020.

6. 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 Letter No. 961-Gas is reasonable with respect to the Company's stakeholders and its general body of electric 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 Letter No. 961-Gas proposed in the Motion for Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on February 5, 2020, as amended on February 10, 2020, is granted.
2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
February 19, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

FRANCES A. KONCILJA

JOHN GAVAN

Commissioners