

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0362E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 788 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO ELECTRIC, LLC TO DECREASE THE ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT (ECA) TO BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2020.

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

Mailed Date: September 4, 2020
Adopted Date: September 2, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On August 28, 2020, Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC (Black Hills or Company) filed this Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion). By Advice Letter No. 788-Electric, also filed on August 28, 2020, the Company seeks to amend its Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) inputs on Tariff Sheet No. 65 of its No. 11-Electric Tariff, to become effective October 1, 2020.

2. Black Hills states that it is seeking authority under § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1, to provide alternative forms of notice for the ECA adjustment to its customers. The Company seeks approval to use the following forms of notice:

- (a) publishing a customer notice (Attachment 1 to its Motion) and applicable tariff sheets on its website;
- (b) printing on each applicable customer's bill a message that provides the URL to the website notice, a toll-free phone number for assistance, and a general summary of the proposed changes in rates; and

- (c) publishing a sizeable legal notice of the advice letter (Attachment 1 to its Motion) in three newspapers that serve the service territory on one day for two consecutive weeks.

3. Black Hills opines that the proposed forms of notice are reasonable because the bill message, webpage, and newspaper notice will reach all customers in the service area in an affordable and efficient manner. Further, Black Hills states that providing notice on the bill is highly visible to customers because the message is presented on the first page of the bill where customers look for the dollar amount due, and that the other venues can provide general notice and opportunities to learn about the amended tariff.

4. 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 that the alternative forms of notice Black Hills proposes in its Motion will provide sufficient notice to Black Hills' customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice Black Hills requests.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice filed on August 28, 2020, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 2, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners

CHAIRMAN JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN
ABSENT.