

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 21V-0134G

IN THE MATTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO FOR APPROVAL OF
A TEMPORARY PARTIAL VARIANCE FROM ITS P.U.C. NO. 6 – GAS TARIFF RELATED
TO TRANSPORTATION BACKUP SALES CHARGES DUE TO THE EXTREME COLD
WEATHER EVENT.

**INTERIM DECISION GRANTING REQUEST FOR
SHORTENED NOTICE AND INTERVENTION PERIOD**

Mailed Date: March 31, 2021

Adopted Date: March 31, 2021

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This Decision establishes a shortened notice and intervention period for the petition filed March 25, 2021, by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) seeking temporary partial variance from its Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas Tariff (Gas Tariff) provisions relating to the transportation of Backup Sales Service Option and Interruptible Sales charges (Backup Sales) for a portion of the month of February (Petition).

2. Requests for intervention, including a notice of intervention by right of Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Staff), shall be filed by **April 7, 2021**.

B. Discussion

3. In its Petition, Public Service explains that, for the dates of February 1 through 11 and February 19 through 28, 2021 (Variance Dates), the Company seeks a variance from the current tariff provisions that require it to use a definition of Index Price One in its calculation of Backup Sales charges that would result in very high charges for affected customers. Instead, for

the Variance Dates, the Company seeks to use a lower Index Price One rate in the Backup Sales calculation. If approved, the Company represents that the requested variance will result in significantly lower bills for affected transport customers.

4. Public Service includes that it is requesting the variance because of the unprecedented spike in the price of gas due to the extreme weather event that occurred from February 12 through 18, 2021. Without the variance requested, the Company price spikes in conjunction with the Company's Gas Tariff related to the calculation of Backup Sales result in a rate for the entire month of February for certain transport users that use the highest reported weekly weighted average price under the Gas Tariff's Index Price One definition, "resulting in a tremendous bill impact."¹ Through the variance requested in the Petition, the Company seeks to revise the definition applicable to only the Variance Dates and, thereby, limit the resulting bill impacts outside of the extreme weather event time period.

5. Within its Petition, Public Service requests the Commission shorten the notice and intervention period set forth in Rule 1206 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1. Public Service seeks a notice and intervention period of seven days, and seeks an expedited decision on or before April 26, 2021, so that the affected transport customers and the Company have certainty as to the charges for Backup Sales for the month of February. If the Petition is unopposed, or if no party requests a hearing, Public Service requests that the Commission grant the Petition without a hearing.

¹ Petition at ¶ 5.

C. Findings and Conclusions

6. We find good cause to grant Public Service's request for shortened notice and intervention period. Requests for intervention, including a notice of intervention by right of Staff, shall be filed no later than **April 7, 2021**.

7. The Petition is available for public inspection by accessing the Commission's E-filing system at [Colorado.gov/dora/puc](https://colorado.gov/dora/puc). **This Decision is the Commission's notice that the Petition has been filed.**

II. ORDER**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. The request of Public Service Company of Colorado for a shortened notice and intervention period for its Petition for Approval of a Temporary Partial Variance from its P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas Tariff filed March 25, 2021, is granted.

2. The notice and intervention period shall expire at 5:00 p.m. on **April 7, 2021**.

3. Any person desiring to intervene or participate as a party in this proceeding, including Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, shall file a petition for leave to intervene, or under the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, file other appropriate pleadings to become a party, no later than **April 7, 2021**.

4. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 31, 2021.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Dean".

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners