

4971. – 4974. [Reserved].

4975. Applications for financial incentives including ratemaking treatment concerning projects and programs stemming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

In order to encourage gas utilities in the state of Colorado to aggressively seek funding for programs and projects under the ARRA, the Commission shall allow for an expedited review of applications filed to request financial incentives including ratemaking treatment. At the applicant's option, it may choose the procedural process outlined in this rule or propose an alternative procedural schedule. There is no requirement that a utility use this process or obtain prior approval of a planned ARRA-funded project. The utility may choose to raise cost recovery and incentives at a later point after ARRA funding has been obtained.

- (a) The Commission shall allow for an expedited review process for applications filed for financial incentives including ratemaking treatment, as follows:
 - (I) The Commission shall give priority to applications filed pursuant to this rule and shall dispose of the application within 45 days after filing unless the Commission, for good cause shown, enters an order continuing the proceeding and stating fully the facts necessitating the continuance. The Commission may dispose of a non-contested application without a hearing, as provided by § 40-6-109(5), C.R.S.
 - (II) The intervention and notice period shall run for ten days after the notice is mailed by the Commission. The Commission shall mail notice of the application within three business days of the filing of the application. If it intends to participate as a party, Staff of the Commission is required to file its notice of intervention as of right within the ten day notice period. Any party requesting a hearing on the application must clearly state so in its request for intervention and set forth its reasons that a hearing is necessary.
 - (III) Response time to all motions to intervene by permission shall be three business days. All motions to intervene shall be served on the applicant through electronic mail at the electronic mail address provided in the application.
 - (IV) Response time to audit and discovery shall be three business days. Discovery rights and obligations shall begin upon the Commission's grant of a motion to intervene or the filing of an intervention by right. The Commission may enter an order limiting the number of discovery and audit questions based on the scope of the application and the number of interventions.
 - (V) If a hearing is scheduled, summaries of answer testimony shall be due ten days prior to the scheduled hearing date.
 - (VI) Oral legal arguments, expanded answer testimony, rebuttal testimony and surrebuttal testimony will be allowed at hearing.
 - (VII) Absent a showing of good cause to the contrary, response time to motions shall be three business days.

- (b) Contents of Application. All applications filed pursuant to this rule 4975 shall include, in addition to the information required by rule 4002(b), the following information, either within the application or in attached exhibits:
- (I) A description of the program(s) or project(s) for which the application is requesting a financial incentive. This description shall include a justification for how the program(s) or project(s) is additive to current requirements or commitments. If the program(s) or project(s) is not additive, an explanation of why the request for financial incentives is warranted;
 - (II) A statement regarding whether the program(s) or project(s) will proceed absent the Commission's approval of the requested financial incentive;
 - (III) An estimate of the costs for the program(s) or project(s) and the financial incentive for which federal funding is sought along with an identification of the preferred cost-recovery mechanism and timeline the applicant expects to request in the future;
 - (IV) A description of how the proposed program(s) or project(s) will meet the goals of the ARRA and the state of Colorado;
 - (V) A citation to the applicable section of the ARRA through which federal funds will be sought;
 - (VI) An explanation of the process at the federal and state level to request and be awarded funds, including known milestone dates;
 - (VII) Justification for expedited treatment from the Commission;
 - (VIII) Type(s) of financial incentive the applicant is requesting from the Commission;
 - (IX) Justification as to why the requested financial incentive is necessary, just and reasonable, and is in the public interest. This shall include, but is not limited to, a description of the applicant's capital budget for the current year and the next three years and of the impact the program(s) or project(s) will have on the capital budget for each of those years;
 - (X) A plan for accountability and tracking of program(s) or project(s), including proposed measurement and verification of program goals; how the plan complies with federal accountability standards; and identification of how the program(s) and project(s) revenues and costs will be separately identified in the applicant's books of account;
 - (XI) Identification of all additional waivers of Commission rules or decisions the applicant anticipates may be necessary to complete the program(s) or project(s) if the applicant's request for federal funding is granted;
 - (XII) Any additional requests to the Commission that the applicant anticipates will be necessary if the applicant's request for federal funding for the program(s) or project(s) is accepted; and

- (XIII) Identification of all other requests for ARRA funding that the applicant, or its affiliates, has already made or intends to make. This list shall include requests made for programs and projects in other states. The list shall also include any financial incentive awarded by other state commissions associated with the ARRA funding requests.
- (c) The applicant shall meet with Staff of the Commission to explain an anticipated request at least seven calendar days prior to the filing of an application for approval of financial incentives. The applicant and Staff may agree to a shorter time period between the meeting and filing of the application. If such agreement is reached, the applicant shall inform the Commission of such agreement in its application.
- (d) The Commission encourages settlement of any issues raised in an application proceeding filed pursuant to this rule. To achieve this goal, the applicant shall meet with all intervenors within seven days after interventions have been granted.

4976. – 4999. [Reserved].