

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 13A-0062E

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO CONDUCT A SECOND SHORT-TERM MEDICAL EXEMPTION PROGRAM THAT CREATES AN EXEMPTION FROM ELECTRICITY INVERTED BLOCK RATE SCHEDULES FOR MEDICAL REASONS AND FOR RECOVERY OF LOST REVENUES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE ELECTRIC COMMODITY ADJUSTMENT.

DECISION CLOSING PROCEEDING

Mailed Date: January 23, 2014
Adopted Date: January 22, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. Through Decision No. C13-0232, mailed on February 21, 2013, the Commission approved an application by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service) for the implementation of a short-term Medical Exemption Program (MEP). The MEP was approved for the summer of 2013 (June 1 through September 30) and allowed an exemption from residential tiered rates for low-income customers with proof of a qualifying medical condition and/or use of an essential life support device. The Commission also approved recovery of revenue losses associated with the program through Public Service's Electric Commodity Adjustment (ECA).

2. We directed Public Service, at the conclusion of the MEP, to provide Commission Staff and the Office of Consumer Counsel with a summary of participant information, including number of participants, their incomes, and their electricity usage.

3. Permanent rules regarding exemption from electricity inverted block rate schedules for customers meeting medical and income requirements will be published in the *Colorado Register* on January 25, 2014. The rules are expected to be effective on February 14, 2013.

B. Findings and Conclusions

4. As approved in Decision No. C13-0232, the MEP ran from June 1, 2013 to September 30, 2013, allowing a flat rate of \$0.06322 per kWh for all qualifying residential usage. In order to participate in the program, a customer had to provide documentation from a licensed physician stating that the customer had a qualifying medical condition or required the use of an essential life support device. Additionally, the customer had to qualify for assistance under the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP).

5. Public Service made an Informational Filing on November 22, 2013, stating that notice of potential eligibility had been sent to 9,721 customers identified as meeting LEAP income criterion and whose monthly summer use during the summer of 2011 exceeded 820 kWh, the usage level at which the alternative rate would financially benefit the customer. However, customers did not have to be identified by Public Service in order to participate; MEP participation was available to any residential customer meeting the LEAP income criterion and providing the required physician's verification of medical eligibility for medical condition and/or use of medical life-support equipment.

6. In the November 22, 2013 informational filing, Public Service stated that 730 customers participated in the program and that the average monthly household usage of these participants was 1,091 kWh.

7. Public Service reported a total of \$24,093 in lost revenues associated with the program, broken out by month as \$9,519 for July, \$6,498 for August, and \$8,076 for September. These lost revenues were recovered through two ECA proceedings, \$9,519 in Proceeding No. 13L-1005E and \$14,574 in Proceeding No. 13L-1317E. The average foregone revenue per customer participating in the MEP was about \$11.00 per month.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Medical Exemption Program conducted by Public Service Company of Colorado through the summer of 2013 provided assistance to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program customers with qualifying medical conditions and/or use of essential life-support equipment.

2. This proceeding is closed.

3. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114, C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
January 22, 2014.**

(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

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners