

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0187E

IN THE MATTER OF BLACK HILLS/COLORADO ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LP
FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE TO ITS
PROPOSED APRIL 1, 2014 ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT TARIFF AND WAIVER OF
RESPONSE TIME.

**DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION
FOR ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE
AND WAIVING RESPONSE TIME**

Mailed Date: March 6, 2014
Adopted Date: March 5, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of the Application for Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice and for Waiver of Response Time (Application) filed on February 28, 2014 by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP (Black Hills Company).

2. Black Hills seeks a Commission approval of alternative form of notice pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(D), C.R.S., that will apply to its Advice No. 678 to revise the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) factor to become effective April 1, 2014. Black Hills is requesting a revision to its ECA to reflect an increase in the cost of the Company's energy above the amount included in present rates and to revise the ECA applied to bills beginning April 1, 2014 from \$0.03664 to \$.03757.

3. The Application contains the information required by the applicable Commission rules and is therefore deemed complete.

4. Black Hills requests Commission authorization to use the following alternative notice of its revised ECA:

- a. Filing with the Commission, and keeping open for inspection, Advice Letter No. 678 to revise the ECA factor;
- b. Posting on the website for Black Hills Energy: (1) a Customer Notice attached to the Application as Exhibit 1; and (2) Advice Letter No. 678 and its accompanying tariff sheet, for 30 days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 678;
- c. Printing a message on each customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 678 and its accompanying tariff sheet, and a toll-free phone number for assistance, beginning with the first bill cycle after filing Advice Letter No. 678;
- d. Posting the Customer Notice, visible for walk-in customers, at the Company's service center in Pueblo, Colorado at 105 S. Victoria Avenue for 30 days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 678; and
- e. Publishing a notice in *The Pueblo Chieftain*, *The Canon City Daily Record*, and *The Rocky Ford Daily Gazette*, three newspapers of general circulation in the affected service areas, in accordance with the Public Utilities Law and the applicable rules of the Commission.

5. Black Hills states that there is good cause for this alternative form of notice.

A bill message, unlike a bill insert, provides more visibility to customers. Further, the website posting and the toll-free number provides the required information regarding the amended tariff to the general public. Finally, the posting in the Pueblo service center provides visibility to walk-in customers.

6. Black Hills further requests that we waive response time to the Application.

7. We find good cause to waive response time to the Application and to grant it.

We find that that alternative form of notice proposed by the Company is reasonable with respect to the stakeholders and the general public. The Commission will discuss the merits of Black Hills' Advice Letter No. 678 at a future date.

II. ORDER**A. The Commission Orders That:**

1. The Application for an Alternative Form of Notice filed on February 28, 2014 by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP is deemed complete.
2. The Application for an Alternative Form of Notice is granted.
3. Response time to the Application for an Alternative Form of Notice is waived.
4. The 20-day period provided for in § 40-6-114, C.R.S., within which to file applications for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration begins on the first day following the effective date of this Decision.
5. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 5, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
DirectorTHE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners