

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0632E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. XXXX-ELECTRIC FILED BY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE ITS COLORADO
PUC NO. 7-ELECTRIC TARIFF TO IMPLEMENT A GENERAL RATE SCHEDULE
ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE JULY 18, 2014.

**DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION FOR
ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE AND WAIVER OF
TIME LIMIT CONTAINED IN RULE 1210 FOR FILING A
PROTEST AND WAIVING RESPONSE TIME**

Mailed Date: June 18, 2014

Adopted Date: June 18, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of an Application for Commission Approval of Alternative Form of Notice, for Waiver of the Time Limit Contained in Rule 1210 for Filing a Protest to the Company's Rate Filing and for Waiver of Response Time (Application), filed on June 10, 2014 by Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company).

2. Public Service requests the Commission enter a decision approving an alternative form of notice pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(D), C.R.S., that will apply to its advice letter initiating an electric Phase 1 rate case. The Company expects the Commission will suspend the effective date of the advice letter and set the matter for hearing.

3. Public Service seeks to avoid the cost of direct mail, approximately \$375,000. Public Service states its proposed form of notice has been designed to provide a means for all but

a very small percentage of its customers, of obtaining notice of the filing within 20 days of the filing of the Advice Letter as required by the statute and Commission rules, and to provide actual notice of the filing to each individual customer before the deadline for interventions would run. Public Service represents that Staff of the Commission and the Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel support the request for alternative form of notice.

4. Specifically, Public Service is seeking Commission approval to use the following form of alternative notice:

- a. Filing with the Commission, and keeping open for inspection, the filing;
- b. Publishing a legal notice, attached to the Application as Exhibit 1, in *The Denver Post*, for two consecutive Sundays, June 22 and June 29, 2014;
- c. Posting a copy of the filing on the Company's website; and
- d. Providing the notice as a bill insert with all of the electric bills expected to be delivered over the course of approximately five weeks commencing approximately June 30, 2014 and continuing through early August 2014.

5. Public Service argues there is good cause for the alternative form of notice. The Company would like to avoid incurring the expense associated with direct mail. Yet, although a bill insert is significantly less costly, due to the rolling schedule for providing electric bills to retail customers, it is not possible to provide such notice to all customers within 20 days of filing as would be necessary under Rule 1210 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1. Public Service contends the proposed alternative notice, whether received by way of newspaper publication within 20 days of the filing or later as a bill insert, would apprise the Company's retail electric customers that the tariffs are expected to be suspended but that they may file a protest with the Commission or to petition to intervene prior to the anticipated deadline for interventions.

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

7. We find good cause to grant the Application, grant a waiver of Rule 1210, and to waive response time to the Application. We find that that alternative form of notice proposed by Public Service is reasonable with respect to the Company's retail electric customers.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application for Commission Approval of Alternative Form of Notice, for Waiver of the Time Limit Contained in Rule 1210 for Filing a Protest to the Company's Rate Filing and for Waiver of Response Time, filed on June 10, 2014 by Public Service Company of Colorado is granted and response time is waived.

2. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

B. **ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING** **June 18, 2014**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners