

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-1136E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS/COLORADO ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LP, FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE TO ITS PROPOSED JANUARY 1, 2015, ENERGY COST ADJUSTMENT TARIFF AND WAIVER OF RESPONSE TIME.

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

Mailed Date: December 5, 2014

Adopted Date: December 3, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On November 26, 2014, Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company (Black Hills or the Company) filed an application requesting Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice and for Waiver of Response Time (Application) to apply to its tariff filing to revise the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) factor, effective January 1, 2015.

2. Black Hills states that it is filing Advice Letter No. 689 to submit the tariff sheet containing the ECA data consistent with the requirements of the cost adjustment methodology approved by the Commission in Decision No. C13-0794 in Proceeding No. 12AL-1052E issued June 28, 2013.

3. In its Application, Black Hills seeks authorization to use the following alternative form of notice:

- (a) filing of Advice Letter No. 689 to revise the ECA factor with the Commission and keeping the filing open for public inspection;

- (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. 689 and its accompanying tariff sheet, for thirty (30) days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 689;
- (c) printing a message on each customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 689 and its accompanying tariff sheet, and a toll-free phone number for assistance, beginning with the first bill cycle after filing Advice Letter No. 689;
- (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 thirty (30) days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 689; and
- (e) publishing a notice in *The Pueblo Chieftain*, *Cañon City Daily Record*, and *Rocky Ford Daily Gazette*, three newspapers of general circulation in the affected service area, once each week for two successive weeks during the first twenty days of the thirty-day period prior to the effective date of Advice Letter No. 689.

4. In support of its proposed alternative form of notice, Black Hills contends that these methods of providing notice are expeditious and economic for the Company's customers because: (a) a bill message, unlike a bill insert, provides more visibility to the customer because it is presented on the first page of the bill, where the customer looks for the dollar amount due and the payment deadline; (b) the website posting will provide the required information regarding the amended tariff to the general public; (c) the toll-free phone number provided in the bill message will give customers a second option to learn more about the amended tariff if they cannot access the internet for the Company's website; (d) the posting in the Pueblo service center provides visibility to customers who "walk-in" for customer service matters. The Application for Alternative Form of Notice and for Waiver of Response Time contains all of the information required by Commission rules and is therefore deemed complete.

6. The Commission finds good cause to grant the Application and waive response time. We find that the alternative form of notice proposed by Black Hills is reasonable with respect to the stakeholders and the general public.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application filed November 26, 2014, by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company requesting Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice and for Waiver of Response Time to apply to its tariff filing to revise the Energy Cost Adjustment factor, effective January 1, 2015, is deemed complete and is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

B. **ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING December 3, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners

CHAIRMAN JOSHUA B. EPEL
ABSENT.