

Decision No. C04-0334

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

DOCKET NO. 04L-126G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF
COLORADO ON LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING
IT TO REVISE ITS THERM CONVERSION ENERGY FACTORS.

**COMMISSION ORDER AUTHORIZING REVISIONS OF
THERMAL CONVERSION ENERGY FACTORS**

Mailed Date: March 31, 2004
Adopted Date: March 31, 2004

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On March 18, 2004, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Applicant) filed a verified application seeking a Commission order authorizing it to revise tariffs and update Energy Factors for use in the conversion of metered volumes to therms without formal hearing and on less-than-statutory notice. The proposed tariffs are to go into effect on April 1, 2004.

2. On March 23, 2004, Public Service filed a motion for extension of time prescribed under Rule 723-1-41.5.3 for publication of notice and request for waiver of response time.

3. The proposed tariffs are attached to the application and affect Applicant's customers in its Colorado certified areas on file with the Commission.

4. This application for authority to change tariffs is made pursuant to § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., and Rule 41(e)(1) of the *Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure*, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1.

5. Public Service is an operating public utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission and is engaged in, *inter alia*, the purchase, transmission, distribution, transportation, and sale of natural gas in various certified areas within the State of Colorado.

6. Public Service's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 Gas Tariff, Sheet No. 13A, requires that the Energy Factors which are incorporated into the Therm Multiplier and consequently used to convert metered volumes to therms be revised on a quarterly basis, effective January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1, each year. This revision is to be based on an analysis of the Heating Value of the natural gas for each BTU Zone for the three-month period ending one month prior to these dates.

7. Public Service has completed the analysis of the Heating Value of its natural gas for each BTU Zone for the period December 1, 2003 through February 29, 2004, and is requesting a revision of its Energy Factors contained on Sheet 13A to reflect the result of this analysis. In accordance with the provisions of Sheet 13A of its P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas Tariff, Public Service proposes that this revision become effective with meter readings commencing April 1, 2004.

8. Public Service represents that there is no change in overall revenue because the revision to the proposed Energy Factors reflect the most accurate Heating Value of the gas delivered to its natural gas customers based upon the most recent data available. Public Service's application to revise the Energy Factors filed on March 19, 1997 in Docket No. 97L-135G illustrates this concept on a theoretical basis.

9. Public Service requests that the Commission issue an order approving the proposed changes on less than 30 day's notice so that it may place the requested revision into effect starting with meter readings on April 1, 2004. Public Service represents that it could not have filed the proposed changes any earlier because the information necessary to compute the updated Energy Factors, which was derived from BTU Zone data for the December 1, 2003 through February 29, 2004 period, only recently became available. Public Service has been directed to file such applications to revise its therm conversion energy factors within 15 business days following the end of the applicable test period. Public Service filed all supporting work papers for this application. To assist the Commission and Staff, work papers should be filed with future applications. (*See* Decision No. C96-1183, P.2, § 2.) This application complies with said requirements.

10. On March 23, 2004, Public Service filed a motion for extension of time prescribed under Rule 723-1-41.5.3 for publication of notice and request for waiver of response time. Public Service was unable to publish notice within three days of the filing of this application. Public Service would publish the notice on March 24, 2004 and as such requests an

extension of the three-day notice publication requirement to allow for an additional three days, for a total of six days after the filing of this application, within which to publish its notice of revisions in the therm conversion energy factors. Further, as this request is purely procedural in nature, Public Service requests that response time to this motion be waived.

11. The filing of this application was brought to the attention of Public Service's affected customers by publication in *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation in the areas affected.

12. Good cause exists to allow the proposed changes on less-than-statutory-notice.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The application by Public Service Company of Colorado for authority to change tariffs on less-than-statutory notice is granted.

2. The motion for extension of time for publication of notice and request for waiver of response time by Public Service Company of Colorado is granted.

3. Public Service Company of Colorado is authorized to file, on not less than one day's notice, the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Order. These tariffs shall be effective for actual gas sales on and after their effective date of April 1, 2004.

4. This Order is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 31, 2004.**

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners