

Decision No. C14-0562

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0505E

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF BLACK HILLS/COLORADO ELECTRIC UTILITY COMPANY, LP, FOR COMMISSION APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE TO AMEND LANGUAGE REGARDING SERVICE ENTRANCE EQUIPMENT IN THE RULES SECTION OF THE COLORADO PUC NO. 8-ELECTRIC TARIFF AND WAIVER OF RESPONSE TIME.

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

Mailed Date: May 28, 2014
Adopted Date: May 28, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of an Application for Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice to Amend Language Regarding Service Entrance Equipment in the Rules Section of the Colorado PUC No. 8-Electric Tariff and Waiver of Response Time (Application), filed on May 20, 2014 by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP (Black Hills or Company). Black Hills filed an affidavit of publication of additional notice on May 23, 2014.

2. Black Hills requests that 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 No. 681 to amend language for service entrance equipment in the Rules section of its Colorado PUC No. 8-Electric Tariff. Black Hills also seeks a waiver of response time to this Application.

3. Black Hills proposes to amend the requirement for service entrance equipment such that the customer, not the Company, shall furnish, install, connect and maintain the meter socket, beginning with the effective date of the tariff sheet R20, for either new service locations or additions or alterations to existing service locations. The Company would continue to furnish the meter, meter transformers, and test blocks at the customer premises. Title to the meter would vest in the Company at all times.

4. Specifically, Black Hills seeks Commission approval to use the following form of alternative notice:

- a. Filing with the Commission, and keeping open for inspection, Advice Letter No. 681;
- b. Posting on the website for Black Hills Energy: (1) a Customer Notice attached as Exhibit 1 to the Application and (2) Advice Letter No. 681 and its accompanying tariff sheet, for 60 days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 681;
- c. Printing a message on each customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 681 and its accompanying tariff sheet, and a toll free phone number for assistance, beginning with the first bill cycle after filing Advice Letter No. 681; and
- d. Publishing a legal notice of Advice Letter No. 681-Electric, with size dimensions of 4 columns width and 11 inches height, in three newspapers of general circulation for the service territory: 1) *The Pueblo Chieftain* (two consecutive Sundays, June 1 and June 8, 2014); and, 2) *The Canon City Daily Record* (two consecutive Fridays, May 30 and June 6, 2014); and, 3) *The Rocky Ford Daily Gazette* (two consecutive Thursdays, May 29 and June 5, 2014).

5. Black Hills states it would like to avoid incurring "time and materials" expense for printing customer bill inserts. Black Hills further argues that a bill message provides more visibility to customers because it is located on the first page of the bill, where the customer looks for dollar amounts due and the payment deadline. Black Hills concludes there is good cause for the alternative form of notice because it will be expeditious, economic, and visible to customers.

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 and to waive response time to it. We find the proposed alternative form of notice is reasonable in regards to Black Hills' customers and other potential stakeholders. The Commission will discuss the merits of Advice Letter No. 681 at a future date.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application for Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice to Amend Language Regarding Service Entrance Equipment in the Rules Section of the Colorado PUC No. 8-Electric Tariff and Waiver of Response Time (Application), filed on May 20, 2014 by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP is deemed complete.

2. The Application is granted.

3. Response time to the Application is waived.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
May 28, 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