

Decision No. C14-0801

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14A-0565E

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 JULY 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: July 11, 2014
Adopted Date: June 5, 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 Its Proposed July 1, 2014 Energy Cost Adjustment Tariff and Waiver of Response Time (Application), filed on May 30, 2014 by Black Hills/Colorado Electric Utility Company, LP (Black Hills).

2. Black Hills 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 No. 682 to revise the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) factor to become effective July 1, 2014. Black Hills also seeks a waiver of response time to this Application.

3. Black Hills states it has filed Advice No. 682 and 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.

Black Hills requests a revision to its ECA to reflect an increase in the cost of its energy above the amount included in present rates and to revise the ECA applied to bills beginning July 1, 2014 from \$0.03757 to \$0.05657. By this Application, Black Hills seeks Commission approval to provide alternative notice of its proposed revision in the ECA tariff.

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. 682 to revise the ECA factor;
- 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. 682 and its accompanying tariff sheet, for 30 days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 682;
- c. Printing a message on each customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice and Advice Letter No. 682 and its accompanying tariff sheet, and a toll free phone number for assistance, beginning with the first bill cycle after filing Advice Letter No. 682;
- d. Posting the Customer Notice visible for walk-in customers at Black Hills' service center in Pueblo, Colorado at 105 S. Victoria Avenue for 30 days beginning with the date of filing Advice Letter No. 682; and
- e. Publishing a notice in *The Pueblo Chieftain*, *The Cañon City Daily Record*, and *The Rocky Ford Daily Gazette*, three newspapers of general circulation in the affected service areas, once each week for two successive weeks during the first 20 days of the 30-day period prior to the effective date of Advice Letter No. 682.

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 the dollar amount due and the payment deadline. The website posting will provide the required information regarding the amended tariff to the general public. The toll-free phone number in the bill message will give customers a second option to learn more about the amended

tariff if they cannot access the internet. The posting in the Pueblo service center provides visibility to the customers who “walk-in” for customer service matters. 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. 682 at a future date.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application for Commission Approval of an Alternative Form of Notice to Its Proposed July 1, 2014 Energy Cost Adjustment Tariff and Waiver of Response Time (Application), filed on May 30, 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
June 5, 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