

Decision No. C19-0980-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 19AL-0268E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 1797 FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO RESET THE CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE GENERAL RATE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT (“GRSA”) AS APPLIED TO BASE RATES FOR ALL ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULES AS WELL AS IMPLEMENT A BASE RATE KWH CHARGE, GENERAL RATE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT-ENERGY (“GRSA-E”) TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JUNE 20, 2019.

**INTERIM DECISION SCHEDULING
COMMISSIONERS’ DELIBERATION MEETING AND
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE**

Mailed Date: December 6, 2019
Adopted Date: December 4, 2019

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This Decision schedules a Commissioners’ Deliberations Meeting on **December 11, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m.** We also schedule a technical conference on **December 16, 2019 beginning at 1:00 p.m.**, for the purpose of reviewing the calculations of the final revenue requirement and base rates for the electric rate schedules of Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company).

B. Discussion

2. On May 20, 2019, Public Service filed Advice Letter No. 1797 with supporting attachments and pre-filed testimony as a Phase I rate proceeding. The proposed effective date of the tariffs filed with Advice Letter No. 1797 is June 20, 2019.

3. Also on May 20, 2019, Public Service filed an “Omnibus Motion” including a Motion for Rates Effective January 1, 2020. Public Service argues that a January 1, 2020 effective date will conserve customer, Commission, and Company resources by eliminating the need for multiple true-ups. The Company also states that a January 1, 2020 effective date will also help to eliminate customer confusion that often ensues as a result of such true-ups. Public Service further explains that the Company’s rates have been reduced to reflect the impact of the TCJA from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2019, as approved in Proceeding No. 18M-0074EG. The Company suggests that having new base rates effective January 1, 2020 corresponds with the conclusion of that initial TCJA rate reduction. In sum, Public Service concludes that authorizing a January 1, 2020 effective date for rates will provide the most seamless and efficient path to providing customers the financial benefits provided under the TCJA-related settlements.

4. On May 31, 2019, by Decision No. C19-0462, the Commission set for hearing before the Commission *en banc* the tariffs filed with Advice Letter No. 1797 and suspended their effective date for 120 days pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S.

5. By Decision No. C19-0709-I, issued on August 23, 2019, the Commission established a procedural schedule for this matter by adopting the proposed consensus procedural schedule filed by Public Service on July 2, 2019. The consensus procedural schedule included an evidentiary hearing from November 4 through 8, 2019 in addition to November 12 through 13, 2019, if needed. The adopted procedural schedule further required post-hearing statements of position (SOPs) to be filed no later than November 22, 2019. Decision No. C19-0709-I also extended the suspension period of the effective date tariffs filed with Advice Letter No. 1797 for an additional 130 days until February 25, 2020, pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S.

6. By Decision No. C1-0887-I, issued November 1, 2019, the Commission modified the procedural schedule by extending the evidentiary hearing by two days to include November 14 through 15, 2019.

7. The Commission conducted the hearing beginning on November 4, 2019. The hearing concluded on November 14, 2019.

8. The parties timely filed their SOPs by November 22, 2019. Public Service suggests at the conclusion of its SOP that the Commission schedule a technical conference in the week following the Commission's oral deliberations, consistent with its practice in past rate cases. The Company states that at the technical conference, Public Service would adjust its cost of service model to reflect deliberation decisions for rate-setting purposes. In its SOP, Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (Staff) agrees that a technical conference should be convened at which Public Service adjusts its revenue requirement model shortly after the Commission's oral deliberations.

C. Conclusions and Findings

9. In light of Public Service's Motion for Rates Effective January 1, 2020, the Commission will deliberate on this matter at a Commissioners' Deliberations Meeting on December 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

10. We agree with Public Service and Staff that a technical conference is necessary to assist the Commission in establishing the final rates to be implemented as a result of this Proceeding. We therefore schedule the technical conference on December 16, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

11. Public Service shall determine the final rates in this proceeding using its cost of service study and supporting worksheets based on the results of the oral deliberations we will

conduct on December 11, 2019. Public Service also shall complete a bill impact summary in relation to these final rates.

12. Public Service shall file the updated calculations of the final rates and bill impact information prior to the start of the technical conference. Electronic executable files of worksheets and models shall also be provided to the Commission Advisory Staff.

13. At the technical conference, Public Service shall present the calculation of the base rate revenue requirement and bill impact summaries. The technical conference will be held before an Administrative Law Judge and will be an on-the-record proceeding.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. A Commissioners' Deliberations Meeting is scheduled as follows:

DATES: December 11, 2019
TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Commission Hearing Room
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado

2. A technical conference for the purpose of presenting the base rate revenue requirement and bill impact summaries based on the oral deliberations is scheduled as follows:

DATES: December 16, 2019
TIME: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Commission Hearing Room
1560 Broadway, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado

3. The technical conference shall be held before an Administrative Law Judge on the record.

4. Public Service Company of Colorado is ordered to file the material to be presented at the technical conference, consistent with the discussion above. Public Service shall provide to the Commission Advisory Staff assigned to this Proceeding the cost of service study and supporting worksheets in electronic executable format, consistent with the discussion above.

5. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
December 4, 2019.**

(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

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

FRANCES A. KONCILJA

JOHN GAVAN

Commissioners