

Decision No. C20-0184

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20A-0043G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL GAS LLC
FOR AUTHORIZATION TO INCLUDE DATA INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT
PROGRAM PROJECT COSTS IN THE SYSTEM SAFETY AND INTEGRITY RIDER.

**DECISION GRANTING APPROVAL
TO INCLUDE PROGRAM PROJECT COSTS**

Mailed Date: March 20, 2020

Adopted Date: March 11, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. By this Decision, we grant the Verified Application, filed on January 31, 2020 (Application) by Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC (Rocky Mountain), requesting a Commission decision approving the inclusion of Data Infrastructure Improvement Program Project (DIIP) Costs in the System Safety and Integrity Rider (SSIR).

2. This Application was filed to approve two specific projects, a Digital Records Project and a Centerline Survey Project.

3. Rocky Mountain's SSIR is currently approved through December 31, 2021, by Commission Decision No. R18-0263, mailed on April 16, 2018 in Proceeding No. 17AL-0654G.

4. The Application contained written testimony from Christopher Otto, Black Hills Energy's (BHE) Regulatory Director, and Evan Martin, a BHE Senior Integrity Engineer. The testimony speaks to the scope and necessity of these two projects, as well as how the projects will be recovered through the SSIR annual process and associated Revenue Requirement impacts.

5. The Application notes that Staff of the Public Utilities Commission (Staff) had initiated a prudency challenge in Proceeding No. 17AL-0736G, and in resolving that prudency challenge, Rocky Mountain had agreed to file for a data initiative by January 2020. Staff, in withdrawing its prudency challenge and request for hearing, noted this commitment by Rocky Mountain.

6. The expected Revenue Requirement impact of this DIIP is \$124,973. Per Mr. Otto's testimony, this is the anticipated revenue requirement impact for 2021. In 2020, the expected impact will be approximately \$8,519. These projects will therefore be addressed in the November 2020 SSIR filing, and the activity that is included in the 2020 and 2021 revenue requirements will be subject to prudency review in the April 2021 and April 2022 annual reports, respectively.

7. While the SSIR revenue requirement and tariff currently allows Rocky Mountain to recover its spending by the weighted average cost of capital, the Commission will consider all options with regard to any potential SSIR extension.

8. At this time, for these projects, the Commission will grant approval for the proposed advice letter and tariff changes to allow recovery through the SSIR.

9. We find good cause to approve the application, as no party has intervened or opposed the application.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application for Approval of Data Infrastructure Improvement Project costs filed by Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC on January 31, 2020, is deemed complete and granted, consistent with the discussion above.

2. Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC shall file, in a separate advice letter and tariff proceeding, on not less than two business days' notice, an advice letter and tariff implementing the changes with an effective date of July 1, 2020.

3. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114, C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

4. This Decision is effective upon its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
March 11, 2020.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

JOHN GAVAN

Commissioners

COMMISSIONER FRANCES A. KONCILJA'S
TERM EXPIRED MARCH 13, 2020,