

Decision No. C20-0421-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0219G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 968 - GAS FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE ITS COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 6 - GAS TARIFF TO INCREASE THE CONSTRUCTION ALLOWANCE FOR SERVICE LATERAL AND DISTRIBUTION MAIN EXTENSIONS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JUNE 27, 2020.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING
REQUEST FOR ALTERNATIVE FORM OF NOTICE**

Mailed Date: June 4, 2020

Adopted Date: June 3, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On May 27, 2020, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion) to apply to Public Service's Advice Letter No. 968-Gas.

2. In the Motion, Public Service states that through Advice Letter No. 968-Gas, the Company proposes to update the Company's construction allowance by service class for service lateral and distribution main extensions for all rate classes in the Company's Colorado P.U.C. No. 6-Gas Tariff, to become effective June 27, 2020. Public Service states these changes are based on the final Class Cost of Service Study agreed to and implemented for settlement purposes in Proceeding No. 19AL-0309G, Public Service's 2019 Gas Phase II Rate Case. Public Service states that it proposes to increase the construction allowance for customers in all rate classes.

3. The form of legal notice the Company proposes to provide is set forth in Exhibit 1 to the Motion.

4. Public Service states that, in addition to posting the legal notice on its website¹ and keeping the file open for public inspection consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., the Company seeks approval to use the following alternative form of notice:

Publishing the legal notice attached as Exhibit 1 to the Motion in *The Denver Post* for two consecutive weeks on a weekday in lieu of a Sunday publication.

5. Public Service states that the proposed weekday newspaper publication will provide the required information regarding this filing to the general public, including the estimated impact on average customers, while avoiding the costs associated with a Sunday publication.

6. Public Service states that it seeks approval of this alternative form of notice in order to avoid incurring the expense and confusion that is entailed in the other forms of statutory notice. Public Service states that its policy is to use e-mail only for significant filings, such as rate case filings. Public Service states that inundating customers with e-mail and text notifications for all filings could cause confusion. Public Service states that its customers gave the Company authorization to use their e-mail and cell phone numbers for limited purposes, such as outages and conservation, rather than general use. Public Service states it has concern that sending frequent e-mails or texts to customers for noticing or regulatory messages could drive customers to unsubscribe or opt out from receiving e-mails or texts. Public Service explains that e-mail is reserved for building customer relationships through energy efficiency marketing or

¹ https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings at the “Recently Filed Notices” section.

pre-outage communications and text messages are primarily used for outage and restoration information.

7. Public Service concludes that it believes the proposed alternative form of notice is sufficient to timely alert affected and interested parties of the changes proposed by its Advice Letter No. 968-Gas.

8. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, a utility may request to provide an alternative form of notice of proposed tariff changes. We find the alternative form of notice proposed by Public Service in its Motion to apply to Advice Letter No. 968-Gas is reasonable with respect to the Company's stakeholders and its general body of gas ratepayers. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative form of notice as requested by Public Service.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The request for alternative form of notice to apply to Advice Letter No. 968-Gas proposed in the Motion for Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on May 27, 2020, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
June 3, 2020.**

(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

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners