

Decision No. C20-0892-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0503G

IN THE MATTER OF ALTERNATIVE NOTICE OF ADVICE NO. 976-GAS OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE ITS PIPELINE SYSTEM INTEGRITY ADJUSTMENT IN ITS COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 6 -GAS TARIFF EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021

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

Mailed Date: December 15, 2020
Adopted Date: November 18, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On November 13, 2020, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or Company) filed this Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion). By Advice Letter No. 976-Gas, also filed on November 13, 2020, the Company filed its Pipeline System Integrity Adjustment (PSIA) in its Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas tariff.

2. Public Service states it filed Advice No. 976 - Gas to implement new PSIA rates, effective January 1, 2021, as required by the PSIA provisions in Public Service’s Colorado P.U.C. No. 6 – Gas tariff, Sheet Nos. 47 through 47B. Accordingly, pursuant to the PSIA tariff, Public Service’s customers and the public will receive constructive notice that Public Service filed for changes to its PSIA rates to be effective on January 1, 2021.

3. By this Motion, the Company seeks authority under § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., requesting Commission authorization to provide notice of the proposed tariff changes through publication in the Legal Classified section of *The Denver Post*, a newspaper of general circulation.

In addition to posting the proposed tariff changes on its website (https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings) consistent with subsection (1)(c)(I), Public Service is seeking Commission approval to use the following alternative forms of notice:

- a. Publishing a legal notice, in the form attached hereto as Attachment A, in The Denver Post for two (2) consecutive Sundays, November 22 and 29, 2020, consistent with §40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(A), C.R.S.;
- b. Posting a copy of the public versions of the PSIA filing package on the Company's website; and
- c. Providing the bill insert attached hereto as Attachment B to Public Service's gas customers with all mailed and e-billed customer bills, which are expected to be mailed or e-billed, as applicable, during a regular billing cycle over the course of approximately five weeks commencing approximately one (1) week after this filing.

4. Public Service argues newspaper notice is a reasonable form of notice for this filing because the Company is not seeking any change to the formula rate in the PSIA tariff. In addition, Public Service asserts it is complying with existing tariff provisions and Commission orders to update the PCCA rates annually. Public Service believes newspaper notice is a reasonable form of notice for this filing because it provides customers with notice of the filing during the first twenty days of the thirty-day period prior to the January 1, 2021, effective date.

5. Public Service states it's alternative form of notice is also reasonable because it will be less costly than the procedures prescribed by statute. Public Service states that in order to avoid inundating its customers with e-mail and text notifications for all filings that could potentially cause confusion, it is the Company's policy to only use emails for significant filings, such as rate case filings.

6. It is also reasonable because this alternative form of notice is in addition to notice that will be provided via bill inserts, which is permitted by §40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(C), C.R.S.

The Company is complying with existing tariff provisions to update the PSIA rates annually and to provide other required information. The notice that the Company proposes will be sufficient to notify parties that may be interested in reviewing the Company's PSIA Filing and proposed PSIA rates.

7. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 CCR 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 that the alternative forms of notice Public Service proposes in its Motion will provide sufficient notice to Public Service's customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice Public Service requests.

8. Under § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., "[t]he commission for good cause shown, may allow changes with less notice than is required by subsection (1) of this section by an order specifying the changes so to be made and the time when they shall take effect and the manner in which they shall be filed and published."

9. As an investor owned utility under the jurisdiction of this Commission, Public Service is required to abide by the Public Utilities Law as set forth in Title 40. With this reminder, we are confident the Company will continue its long record of adhering to the laws applicable to it.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on November 13, 2020, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 18, 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 C. GAVAN

MEGAN GILMAN

Commissioners