

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22AL-0483E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 834 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO ELECTRIC, LLC DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO INCREASE THE TRANSMISSION COST ADJUSTMENT RIDER, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2023.

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

Mailed Date: November 14, 2022

Adopted Date: November 9, 2022

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On November 1, 2022, Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC, doing business as Black Hills Energy (Black Hills or the Company) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Forms of Notice (Motion) to apply to the Company's Advice Letter No. 834 – Electric, through which the Company proposes to amend its Transmission Cost Adjustment (TCA) calculation inputs, on Tariff Sheet No. 101, in the Rates section of its Colo. P.U.C. No. 11 – Electric Tariff. Black Hills states the proposed tariff amendment will increase the TCA rate from \$0.005072 per kWh to \$0.006361 per kWh, beginning on January 1, 2023, and that the TCA is applicable all retail customers.

2. In the Motion, Black Hills states that although the Motion pertains to a request for alternative form of notice for the Company's amendments to its Colo. P.U.C. No. 11 – Electric Tariff to reflect the proposed TCA revisions, the Company proposes a consolidated noticing of this and three other tariff changes. Black Hills explains that it anticipates soon filing separate Advice

Letter filings to amend portions of its Tariff concerning its Purchased Capacity Cost Adjustment (PCCA) and Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA). Black Hills states it previously filed for approval to amend its Demand Side Management Cost Adjustment (DSMCA), to be effective January 1, 2023. Black Hills concludes, given the Company's requirement to revise its TCA, PCCA, ECA, and DSMCA, the Company is seeking approval in this Motion to provide alternative notice that reflects the filing of these four adjustments (although the Company will file separate motions in each advice letter proceeding). Black Hills notes the Commission previously approved consolidated noticing for the TCA, PCCA, and ECA in Decision No. C20-0844-I in Proceeding No. 20AL0526E.

3. Black Hills moves pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 1207(b), 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (CCR) 723-1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to provide alternative forms of notice to its customers for the Company's filing. Black Hills requests the Commission approve the following forms of notice:

- Filing with the Commission and keeping open for inspection Advice Letter No. 834-Electric, in addition to posting on its website at the time of the filing: (1) the customer notice attached to the Motion as Attachment 1 (Customer Notice); and (2) Advice Letter No. 834-Electric and its accompanying tariff sheets, for 60 days. The Customer Notice will explain the amendments and impacts of the PCCA, ECA, TCA, and DSMCA filings
- Printing a message on each applicable customer's bill providing the website URL for the Customer Notice, Advice Letters, accompanying tariff sheets, and a toll-free phone number for assistance, beginning with the December 2022 bill cycle
- Publishing a legal notice of the TCA, PCCA, ECA, and DSMCA Advice Letters following the ECA filing on November 30, 2022, in three newspapers of general circulation for the service territory: (1) *The Pueblo Chieftain* (two consecutive Tuesdays, December 5 and December 12); and (2) the *Cañon City Daily Record*

(two consecutive Fridays, December 7 and December 14); and (3) the *Rocky Ford Daily Gazette* (two consecutive Thursdays, December 6 and December 13)

4. Black Hills maintains that good cause exists for the Commission to approve the proposed alternative forms of notice. The Company represents the alternative forms of notice provide visibility to its customers, alternative options to learn more about the tariff changes, and ensure general notice to customers throughout the Company's service territory in an expeditious and economic manner.

5. 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 alternative forms of notice of a tariff change. We find the alternative forms of notice the Company proposes in the Motion will provide sufficient notice to its customers and will do so efficiently. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative forms of notice that the Company requests.

II. ORDER

A. **It Is Ordered That:**

1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Forms of Notice, filed by Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC on November 1, 2022, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
November 9, 2022.**

(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

ERIC BLANK

JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners