

Decision No. C14-0565

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 14L-0503G

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURAL GAS LLC
FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING IT TO AMEND A TARIFF ON LESS THAN STATUTORY
NOTICE.

COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING APPLICATION

Mailed Date: May 28, 2014

Adopted Date: May 28, 2014

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. This matter comes before the Commission for consideration of an Application for Authorization to Implement an Adjustment to the System Safety and Integrity Rider on Less than 30-Days Notice (Application) filed by Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC (Rocky Mountain or the Company) on May 16, 2014. The Application is made pursuant to § 40-3-104(2), C.R.S., and subparagraph 4109(b)(II) of the Commission's Rules Regulating Gas Utilities and Pipeline Operators, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-4.

2. Rocky Mountain seeks a Commission decision authorizing it, on less-than-statutory notice, to place into effect on June 1, 2014, tariff sheets that implement an adjustment to its System Safety and Integrity Rider (SSIR). Rocky Mountain states the tariffs will be implemented pursuant to Decision No. R14-0114, mailed on January 30, 2014, in Proceeding Nos. 13A-0046G, 13AL-0067G, and 13AL-0143G (Consolidated Proceedings). Rocky Mountain argues that the tariffs attached to the Application were already approved as part of the settlement agreement and should therefore go into effect, subject to refund.

Rocky Mountain further states that the granting of the Application will allow the tariff sheets to go into effect while providing time for the Staff of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission to establish a reporting process and reporting criteria for the SSIR.

3. Rocky Mountain further maintains that allowing the SSIR to become effective on an interim basis would merely maintain the status quo that would otherwise exist. The Company states, because interim rates are subject to refund with interest, ratepayers would not be prejudiced by the granting of the Application, as ratepayers will only pay the costs that the Commission determines appropriately were recovered through the SSIR.

4. Being fully advised in this matter and consistent with the discussion below, we grant the Application.

B. Conclusions and Findings

5. The Application contains the materials required by the applicable Commission Rules and therefore is deemed complete.

6. The Commission finds good cause to allow Rocky Mountain to submit a compliance tariff on less-than-statutory notice to implement its SSIR on an interim basis, subject to refund. Rocky Mountain states that, pursuant to the settlement reached in the Consolidated Proceedings, the Company agreed to forego over \$1.4 million of SSIR expenses for recovery through base transportation rates in exchange for the ability to recover 2014 SSIR expenses through an SSIR rate filing to be effective in 2014. Therefore, Rocky Mountain shall be allowed to file the new tariffs complying with this Decision on not less than one business day's notice for tariffs to go into effect on June 1, 2014.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application for Authorization to Implement an Adjustment to the System Safety and Integrity Rider on Less than 30-Days Notice filed by Rocky Mountain Natural Gas LLC (Rocky Mountain) on May 16, 2014 is deemed complete and granted.

2. Rocky Mountain is authorized to file, on not less than one day’s notice, the tariffs attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision. These tariffs shall be effective for actual gas sales on or after their effective date of June 1, 2014.

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
May 28, 2014.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JOSHUA B. EPEL

PAMELA J. PATTON

GLENN A. VAAD

Commissioners