

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 19AL-0611E

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IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE NO. 1806 – ELECTRIC FILED BY PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF COLORADO TO REVISE THE COMPANY’S TRANSMISSION COST ADJUSTMENT IN ITS COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 8 – ELECTRIC TARIFF, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020.

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

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Mailed Date: November 25, 2019

Adopted Date: November 6, 2019

**I. BY THE COMMISSION**

**A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions**

1. On November 1, 2019, Public Service Company of Colorado (Public Service or the Company) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice (Motion) to apply to the Company’s Advice Letter No. 1806 – Electric, also filed on November 1, 2019. By Advice Letter No. 1806 – Electric, the Company seeks to revise the Company’s Transmission Cost Adjustment (TCA) in its Colorado P.U.C. No. 8 – Electric tariff, applicable to all electric base rate schedules, effective January 1, 2020.

2. By its Motion, in addition to posting the proposed tariff changes on its website and keeping the tariff changes open for public inspection consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., Public Service seeks approval to use the following alternative form of notice for the tariff changes:

(a) publishing a legal notice (attached to the Motion as Attachment 1) in *The Denver Post* on two consecutive Sundays: December 1, 2019, and December 8, 2019, consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(A), C.R.S;

(b) providing a bill onsert included with all customers' electric bills to be delivered over the course of approximately five weeks commencing approximately two weeks after filing the Motion consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(C), C.R.S.;<sup>1</sup> and

(c) providing the bill onsert to Public Service electric e-bill customers via email to be delivered over the course of approximately five weeks commencing approximately two weeks after filing the Motion consistent with § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(D), C.R.S.

3. Public Service states that the proposed forms of notice will be less costly than notice forms prescribed by statute. It contends that newspaper notice is a reasonable form of notice for this filing because it provides nearly all customers the opportunity to obtain notice of the tariff changes during the first 20 days of the 30-day period prior to the January 1, 2020 effective date. The Company states that there are no substantive issues in dispute because it is complying with existing tariff provisions and Commission orders to update the TCA rates annually, and that the proposed notice forms will be sufficient to notify parties interested in checking whether the Company has calculated the TCA correctly on the basis of previous Commission decisions.

4. The Company states that it is providing notice via email to its e-bill customers. To explain why it is not otherwise providing notice through email or text message, Public Service states that it uses emails for energy efficiency marketing, pre-outage communications, and significant filings such as rate review filings, and that it uses text messages primarily for outage and restoration information. Public Service states that e-mailing or text messaging customers for all filings could cause customer confusion, that there is a concern that sending frequent e-mails or texts for noticing or regulatory messages will cause customers to unsubscribe

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<sup>1</sup> We remind Public Service that under § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., additional notice made by method(s) set forth in subsections (1)(c)(I)(A)-(D) of the statute does not require approval from the Commission.

or opt out from receiving e-mails or texts, and that customers authorize Public Service to use their email and cell phone numbers for limited purposes, not general use.

5. As good cause to grant the Motion, Public Service states that the proposed alternative notice should be sufficient to alert affected and interested parties of the tariff changes in a timely fashion. The Company states that it believes the requested alternative forms of notice will provide the required information concerning the tariff changes to the general public, including the estimated impact to customers.

6. Pursuant to § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1-107(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. 1805 – Electric is reasonable with respect to the Company's stakeholders and its general body of electric ratepayers. We therefore find good cause to approve the alternative form of notice requested by Public Service.

7. We note that Public Service did not include proposed bill onsert language with their filing. Going forward, if Public Service requests bill onserts as an alternative form of notice, the Commission encourages Public Service to file proposed bill onsert language to assist the Commission in determining whether requested alternative notice forms are reasonable.

## **II. ORDER**

### **A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. The request for alternative form of notice to apply to Advice Letter No. 1805 – Electric proposed in the Motion for Alternative Form of Notice filed by Public Service Company of Colorado on November 1, 2019, is granted.

2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING  
November 6, 2019.**

( S E A L )



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,  
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

JEFFREY P. ACKERMANN

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FRANCES A. KONCILJA

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JOHN GAVAN

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Commissioners