

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 20AL-0380G

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 3 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO GAS, INC. DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO REVISE THE GENERAL RATE SCHEDULE ADJUSTMENT ("GRSA") THAT WILL INCREASE THE BASE RATES FOR ALL RATE SCHEDULES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 12, 2020.

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

Mailed Date: September 18, 2020
Adopted Date: September 16, 2020

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement, Findings, and Conclusions

1. On September 11, 2020, Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC (Black Hills) filed a Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice. By Advice Letter No. 3-Gas, also filed on September 11, 2020, the company seeks to amend its General Rate Schedule Adjustment for each of the company's three base rate areas, to become effective October 11, 2020.

2. Black Hills states that it is seeking authority under § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I)(E), C.R.S., and Rule 1207(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* 723-1, to provide alternative forms of notice to its customers about its proposed rate and tariff changes filed with Advice Letter No. 3-Gas. The company seeks approval to use the following forms of notice:

- (a) Posting its Advice Letter No. 3-Gas, a reference to this proceeding number, and a customer notice (Attachment 1 to its Motion) on its website;
- (b) Printing on each applicable customer's bill a message that provides: the URL of the advice letter and customer notice on its website, a toll-free

phone number for assistance, and a general summary of the proposed change;

- (c) Publishing a sizeable legal notice of the application (Attachment 1 to its Motion) in *The Denver Post*; and
- (d) Providing a bill insert (in substantially the same form as Attachment 2 to its Motion) in customer bills issued from approximately September 23, 2020 through October 23, 2020.

3. Black Hills opines that the proposed forms of notice are reasonable because the bill message, bill insert, website posting, and newspaper notice will reach its customers in the service area in an affordable and efficient manner. Further, Black Hills points out that each of the three alternative forms of notice outlined in § 40-3-104(1)(c)(I), C.R.S., are either very expensive, not workable due to billing cycles, or unproductive because customers have not opted-in to email/text alerts.

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

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

- 1. The Motion for Approval of Alternative Form of Notice filed on September 11, 2020, is granted.
- 2. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 16, 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