

Decision No. C24-0701-I

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24AL-0275E

IN THE MATTER OF ADVICE LETTER NO. 871 FILED BY BLACK HILLS COLORADO ELECTRIC, LLC DOING BUSINESS AS BLACK HILLS ENERGY TO INCREASE BASE RATES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND SMALL COMMERCIAL CUSTOMER CLASSES, TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JULY 15, 2024.

**INTERIM COMMISSION DECISION
SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT HEARINGS**

Issued Date: September 28, 2024

Adopted Date: September 18, 2024

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On June 14, 2024, Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC, doing business as Black Hills Energy (“BHCOE” or the “Company”), filed Advice Letter No. 871 (“AL 871”) with tariff sheets to revise base rate revenue for all electric service in the Company’s Colorado PUC No. 11 Tariff, along with certain other changes to its tariff.

2. By Decision No. C24-0489, issued July 9, 2024, the Commission set for hearing and suspended the effective date of the tariff sheets filed with AL 871 pursuant to § 40-6-111(1), C.R.S.

3. By Decision No. C24-0608-I, issued August 21, 2024, the Commission adopted a procedural schedule that includes dates for an evidentiary hearing of December 2 through 6, 2024, and December 9 through 11, 2024.

4. This Decision adds four public comment hearings to the procedural schedule in this matter.

B. Discussion, Findings, and Conclusions

5. Through AL 871, BHCOE requests an annual revenue increase of some \$37 million above its current base rate revenue of \$180 million. The Company's proposals for establishing new base rates, if approved by the Commission, would cause an increase in bills to Residential customers of approximately 18 percent and an increase in bills to Small Commercial customers of approximately 10 percent.

6. Based on the significant increase in bills for electric service sought by BHCOE, we find good cause to schedule public comment hearings in this matter.

7. We will conduct two public comment hearings in Pueblo, Colorado, the first on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and the second on Wednesday, October 30, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Both hearings will take place at Pueblo Memorial Hall, One City Hall Place, Pueblo, CO 81003.

8. Another public comment hearing shall be held in Cañon City, Colorado, on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The hearing will take place at City Council Chambers, 128 Main Street, Cañon City, CO 81212.

9. In addition, we will conduct a remote public comment hearing on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The remote public comment hearing will be held using the web-based video conferencing Zoom platform. Members of the public cannot attend the remote public comment hearing in-person. Additional information about participation in the public comment hearings, such as the sign-up sheet, and all relevant information on how to log on to the

remote public comment hearings will be made available on the Commission's public calendar at: <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>.

10. The remote public comment hearing will be webcast on the Commission's website. This means that those persons wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearing may do so by watching the webcast. To observe the remote public comment hearing, enter this link in the web browser <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts> and select the audio or video option for Hearing Room A. The Commission encourages interested persons who do not wish to provide comments at the remote public comment hearing to observe it through the webcast rather than Zoom. Doing so will help minimize background noise during the hearing and may assist in the orderly progression of the hearing.

11. A court reporter will live transcribe each of the public comment hearings to create a written record of the comments received. Commenters should give their full name, and spell it, before they give their comments. In general, commenters will be called to speak in the order in which they sign up. The presiding officer may adopt procedures and time limits for comments as necessary to ensure that all members of the public have opportunity to comment, and the transcribed record is clear and understandable. Typical time limits range from one to three minutes for each commenter. To ensure the hearing time is used efficiently, commenters are requested to avoid repetitive comments that re-state filed written comments or repeat oral comments already provided at hearing. As discussed below, written public comment can be filed at any time in the proceeding and will be afforded the same weight as oral comments. Finally, the purpose of a public comment hearing is to provide opportunity for members of the public to provide oral comments.

To that end, parties to the Proceeding and their representatives are not permitted to present comments. Individuals may present comments on their own behalf.

12. The Commission will publicize the public comment hearings by press release, announce them on the Commission's public calendar, and make it known by other avenues to the extent resources are available.

13. Participating in the public comment hearing is not the only way to provide comments in this Proceeding. We encourage interested persons to provide written or oral public comments at any time this Proceeding is open. Please include "Proceeding No. 24AL-0275E" in the public comments. Public comments can be provided by:

- Submitting written comments through the Commission's Electronic Filing System (E-Filings) at: <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage>
- Submitting written comments using the Commission's online form or through email at: dora_puc_website@state.co.us. These comments will be posted in E-Filings for this Proceeding.
- Mailing comments to the Commission's offices at: Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, CO 80202
- Calling (303) 869-3490 to leave oral comments (available in both English and Spanish options)

14. Finally, the Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings and meetings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Requests for such accommodations should be made at least one week prior to the event by completing the Language Access Form available at the Commission's webcast page.¹

¹ <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts>.

II. ORDER

A. It Is Ordered That:

1. A public comment hearing in Pueblo, Colorado, is scheduled as follows:

DATE: October 29, 2024

TIME: 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pueblo Memorial Hall
One City Hall Place
Pueblo, CO 81003

2. An additional public comment hearing in Pueblo, Colorado, is scheduled as follows:

DATE: October 30, 2024

TIME: 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Pueblo Memorial Hall
One City Hall Place
Pueblo, CO 81003

3. A public comment hearing in Cañon City, Colorado, is scheduled as follows:

DATE: November 19, 2024

TIME: 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: City Council Chambers
128 Main Street
Cañon City, CO 81212

4. A remote public comment hearing is scheduled as follows:

DATE: December 5, 2024

TIME: 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

METHOD: By video conference or telephone using the zoom web conferencing platform at a link emailed to all those who register to participate in the public comment hearing.

5. This Decision is effective immediately.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
September 18, 2024.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Rebecca E. White,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

ERIC BLANK

MEGAN M. GILMAN

TOM PLANT

Commissioners