

**NOTICE OF FILING A NEW TARIFF FOR
ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM BENEFIT CHARGE
IN COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 1 GAS TARIFF**

**Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc.
d/b/a Black Hills Energy**

You are hereby notified that Black Hills Colorado Gas, Inc. d/b/a Black Hills Energy (“BHCG”, “Black Hills”, or the “Company”), 7060 Alegre Street, Fountain, Colorado 80817, has filed with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado (“Commission”), in accordance with the Public Utilities Law, Advice Letter No. 10 with a new tariff to establish the mandatory monthly charge, the Energy Assistance System Benefit Charge (“EASBC”), in the Gas Rate Adjustments section of its Colorado P.U.C. No. 1 – Gas Tariff, to become effective October 1, 2021. The new tariff for EASBC is Second Revised Sheet No. 50. The new tariff will affect all customers if the Commission allows the tariff to become effective.

The principal purpose of this filing is to establish a new, mandatory monthly charge, the Energy Assistance System Benefit Charge (EASBC). The EASBC is applicable to all utility customers unless customers opt-out or are otherwise exempted.

The EASBC was enacted in Colorado House Bill 1105 (2021) and is codified in statute at §40-8.7-104(2.5), C.R.S.

The EASBC financially contributes to low-income utility assistance. The assistance is administered by Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC). Customers may call 1-866-HEAT-HELP for information on qualifying for low-income utility assistance.

As provided for in Tariff Sheet No. 50, the EASBC will be billed to all utility customers as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Proposed Tariff Rates for EASBC

Effective On and after	Rate Schedules	Monthly Charge
October 1, 2021	All	\$0.50
October 1, 2022	All	\$0.75
October 1, 2023	All	See Note

Note: The Monthly Charge shall adjust annually each October 1, beginning in 2023, based on the annual percentage change in the published Index for July in the previous year and July in the current year. Index shall mean the *U.S. Dept. of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Denver-Aurora-Lakewood for All Items and All Urban Consumers*, or its successor index.

Opt-Out: Customers may opt out of the EASBC by notifying Black Hills Energy at eaoptout@blackhillscorp.com.

Exempted Customers: Black Hills will automatically exempt customers from the EASBC for the succeeding twelve months where such customers received direct utility bill payment assistance in the previous twelve months.

Other terms and conditions are provided in the proposed tariff sheet.

If permitted to go into effect on October 1, 2021, the tariff proposed herein will result in no change to the annual revenues of the Company. The tariff will effectively be revenue neutral. All revenues collected by the Company will be transferred to Energy Outreach Colorado net of prudently incurred costs for Company reimbursement, as approved by the Commission.

The projected impacts of the Company's filing on typical monthly bills for Residential customers is shown in Table 2, and for Small Commercial in Table 3.

Table 2: Monthly Bill Impacts -- Residential Customers

Base Rate Area	GCA Region and Communities Served	Current Average Monthly Bill	Proposed Average Monthly Bill	Monthly Change	Percent Change
1	<u>North/Southwest GCA Region</u> communities in Larimer and Weld Counties, including the towns of Dacono, Erie, Firestone, Frederick, and Wellington	\$75.92	\$76.42	\$0.50	0.66%
1	<u>Western Slope - Without Storage GCA Region</u> communities located in Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin and San Miguel Counties, including the towns of Delta, Glenwood Springs, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Olathe, Paonia, and Telluride	\$81.59	\$82.09	\$0.50	0.61%
1	<u>Western Slope - With Storage GCA Region</u> communities located in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties, including the towns of Aspen, Carbondale and Eagle	\$85.93	\$86.43	\$0.50	0.58%
2	<u>Central GCA Region</u> communities in Bent, Crowley, and Otero Counties, including the towns of Fowler, La Junta, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, and Swink	\$49.28	\$49.78	\$0.50	1.01%
2	<u>North/Southwest GCA Region</u> communities in Cheyenne, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Archuleta, La Plata, Mineral and Yuma Counties, including the towns of Akron, Wray Pagosa Springs, Bayfield and Yuma	\$58.78	\$59.28	\$0.50	0.85%
3	<u>Central GCA Region</u> Castle Rock south to Monument, Fountain, Woodland Park, east to Kiowa, Limon and Burlington, and the surrounding areas to these communities	\$54.24	\$54.74	\$0.50	0.92%

Table 3: Monthly Bill Impacts - Small Commercial Customers

Base Rate Area	GCA Region and Communities Served	Current Average Monthly Bill	Proposed Average Monthly Bill	Monthly Change	Percent Change
1	<u>North/Southwest GCA Region</u> communities in Larimer and Weld Counties, including the towns of Dacono, Erie, Firestone, Frederick, and Wellington	\$148.81	\$149.31	\$0.50	0.34%
1	<u>Western Slope - Without Storage GCA Region</u> communities located in Delta, Eagle, Garfield, Montrose, Ouray, Pitkin and San Miguel Counties, including the towns of Delta, Glenwood Springs, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Olathe, Paonia, and Telluride	\$160.50	\$161.00	\$0.50	0.31%
1	<u>Western Slope - With Storage GCA Region</u> communities located in Eagle, Garfield, and Pitkin Counties, including the towns of Aspen, Carbondale and Eagle	\$169.41	\$169.91	\$0.50	0.30%

2	<u>Central GCA Region</u> communities in Bent, Crowley, and Otero Counties, including the towns of Fowler, La Junta, Las Animas, Rocky Ford, and Swink	\$103.26	\$103.76	\$0.50	0.48%
2	<u>North/Southwest GCA Region</u> communities in Cheyenne, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld, Archuleta, La Plata, Mineral and Yuma Counties, including the towns of Akron, Wray Pagosa Springs, Bayfield and Yuma	\$126.30	\$126.80	\$0.50	0.40%
3	<u>Central GCA Region</u> Castle Rock south to Monument, Fountain, Woodland Park, east to Kiowa, Limon and Burlington, and the surrounding areas to these communities	\$81.88	\$82.38	\$0.50	0.61%

Copies of the Advice Letter and accompanying tariffs as filed with the Commission are available for inspection at the public offices of BHCG at 7060 Alegre Street, Fountain, Colorado 80817; on the Company's website at www.blackhillsenergy.com/filings, or at the office of the Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80202. Customers with questions concerning the proposed or present tariffs may call the Commission at (303) 894-2000 or by email custserv@blackhillscorp.com. In addition, the Company's proposed and present tariffs may be viewed at www.blackhillsenergy.com/filings and the applicable Colorado statutes and Commission rules may be viewed at <https://puc.colorado.gov>.

Any person may file written comments or objections concerning the filing, or may request written notice of any hearing, with the Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202 or <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccomments>. The Commission will consider all written comments and objections submitted prior to the evidentiary hearing.

Filing a written objection (protest) by itself will not allow you to participate as a party in any proceeding established in these matters. If you wish to participate as a party in this matter, you must file written intervention documents under Commission Rule 723-1-1401, 4 Colorado Code of Regulations 723-1 or any applicable Commission order. The Commission may hold a public hearing in addition to an evidentiary hearing. If such a hearing is held, any member of the public may attend and make a statement under oath about the proposed tariffs, whether he or she has filed an objection or intervention. If the filing is uncontested or unopposed, the Commission may determine the matter without a hearing and without further notice.

By: Michael J. Harrington
Director – Regulatory & Finance