

**NOTICE OF FILING NEW TARIFF FOR  
ENERGY ASSISTANCE SYSTEM BENEFIT CHARGE  
IN COLORADO P.U.C. NO. 11 ELECTRIC TARIFF  
of Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC  
d/b/a Black Hills Energy**

You are hereby notified that Black Hills Colorado Electric, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy, 105 South Victoria Avenue, P.O. Box 75, Pueblo, Colorado, 81003-0075, has filed with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado (“Commission”), in accordance with the Public Utilities Law, Advice Letter No. 809 with a new tariff to establish the mandatory monthly charge, the Energy Assistance System Benefit Charge (EASBC), in the Rates section of its Colo. P.U.C. No. 11-Electric Tariff, to become effective on October 1, 2021. The new tariff for EASBC is Original Sheet No. 108. The new tariff will affect all retail 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). EASBC is applicable to all utility customers unless customers opt-out or are otherwise exempted.

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

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. 108, EASBC will be billed to all utility customers as shown in Table 1:

**Table 1. Proposed Tariff Rates for EASBC**

<b>Effective On and After</b>	<b>Rate Schedules</b>	<b>Monthly Charge</b>
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 between 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 EASBC by notifying Black Hills Energy at [eaoptout@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:eaoptout@blackhillscorp.com).

**Exempted Customers:** Black Hills will automatically exempt customers from EASBC in 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 tariff will result in a bill increase to each residential customer under Rate Schedule RS-1 of 50 cents. Based on a typical residential usage of 600 kWh per month, the monthly bill will increase from \$102.91 to \$103.41 per month, or 0.49%.

The tariff will result in a bill increase to each small commercial customer under Rate Schedule SGS-N of 50 cents. Based on a typical small commercial usage of 2,300 kWh per month, the monthly bill will increase from \$335.73 to \$336.23 per month, or 0.15%.

Large commercial and industrial customers may call Black Hills Energy at telephone (719) 546-5847 to obtain information concerning how the requested new tariff may affect them.

Copies of the proposed and present tariffs as filed with the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado are available for inspection at the public offices of Black Hills Energy at 105 South Victoria Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado, 81003; or, at the office of the Public Utilities Commission, 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, may contact Black Hills Energy by telephone at (888) 890-5554 or by email [custserv@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:custserv@blackhillscorp.com). In addition, the Company's proposed and present tariffs may be viewed at [www.blackhillenergy.com](http://www.blackhillenergy.com) 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, with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado, 80202, at the following website: <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccomments>. Requests for written notices can also be made to the Commission by telephone at (303) 894-2000 or, alternatively, by contacting the Consumer Affairs section of the Commission at its local number (303) 894-2070 or toll-free number (800) 456-0858. The Commission will consider all written comments and objections submitted prior to the evidentiary hearing on the application. Written objections (protests) must be filed at least ten (10) days before the proposed effective date of October 1, 2021. 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.

The rates, rules, and regulations ultimately authorized by the Commission may or may not be the same as those proposed and may include rates higher or lower than those proposed or currently in effect.

The Commission may suspend the proposed tariffs, rates, rules, or regulations. The Commission may hold a hearing to determine which rates, rules, and regulations will be authorized. If a hearing is held, any member of the public may attend the hearing and may 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