

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before the Commissioners: Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair
 Jay Scott Emler
 Dwight D. Keen

In the Matter of the Application of Black)
Hills/Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC, d/b/a)
Black Hills Energy to Eliminate the Naming of) Docket No. 19-BHCG-065-TAR
its Electronic Bulletin Board)

ORDER APPROVING TARIFF REVISIONS

The above-captioned matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (“Commission”) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed its files and records and being duly advised in the premises, the Commission makes the following findings:

1. On August 13, 2018, Black Hills/Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (“Black Hills”) filed an Application proposing revisions to its Transportation Tariff schedules to remove specific references to its electronic bulletin board application GTO.¹ GTO and its companion software, Gas Track, assists customers subscribing to transportation service to submit nominations informing Black Hills of the quantity of gas that will be received each day for consumption by the customer, provides notifications to customers, and facilitates customer enrollment in aggregate transportation services.² The Gas Track software was written in programming language that is no longer supported by Microsoft.³ GTO will be replaced by an application called Quorum Pipeline Transportation Management (QPTM), which is already owned

¹ Black Hills/Kansas Gas Utility, LLC Application (Aug. 13, 2018).

² Black Hills’ response to Staff data request 1 (Aug. 23, 2018).

³ *Id.*

by Black Hills.⁴ The QPTM application will provide the same features at GTO and the planned “go-live” date is September 1, 2018.⁵

2. The Commission has full power, authority, and jurisdiction to control Black Hills as a natural gas public utility pursuant to K.S.A. 66-1,201. The Commission has jurisdiction over Black Hills’ rates and terms of service under K.S.A. 66-1,202. No tariff changes shall be effective until approved by the Commission pursuant to K.S.A. 66-117.

3. On August 27, 2018, after examining Black Hills application, Staff submitted its Report and Recommendation (R&R), attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference.⁶ Staff noted in the R&R the proposed changes to Black Hills’ tariff is non-substantive.⁷ Additionally, Staff has determined the proposed tariff changes do not affect rates.⁸ Finally, Staff recommended approval of Black Hills’ request.

4. The Commission finds Staff’s Report and Recommendation to be reasonable and hereby adopts the same.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COMMISSION ORDERED THAT:

A. Black Hills Application is granted. Any reference to GTO will be eliminated throughout the Transportation Tariff and replaced with the more generic “Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB).”

B. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).⁹

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 2.

⁶ Notice of Filing of Staff Report and Recommendation (Aug. 27, 2018).

⁷ *Id.* at 2.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

C. The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties for the purpose of entering such further orders as it may deem necessary and proper.

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

Albrecht, Chair; Emler, Commissioner; Keen, Commissioner

Dated: 09/06/2018



Lynn M. Retz
Secretary to the Commission

CAB

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GOVERNOR JEFF COLYER, M.D.

SHARI FEIST ALBRECHT, CHAIR | JAY SCOTT EMLER, COMMISSIONER | DWIGHT D. KEEN, COMMISSIONER

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION UTILITIES DIVISION

TO: Shari Feist Albrecht, Chair
Jay Scott Emler, Commissioner
Dwight D. Keen, Commissioner

FROM: Josh Frantz, Senior Research Economist
Lana Ellis, Deputy Chief of Economics and Rates
Robert Glass, Chief of Economics and Rates
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

DATE: August 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Docket No. 19-BHCG-065-TAR: In the Matter of the Application of Black Hills/Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC, d/b/a Black Hills Energy to Eliminate the Naming of its Electronic Bulletin Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Black Hills/Kansas Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Black Hills) has filed an Application proposing revisions to its Transportation Tariff schedules to remove specific references to its electronic bulletin board (EBB) application Gas Track Online (GTO). GTO's primary functionality is to allow transportation service customers to submit nominations informing Black Hills of the quantity of gas that will be received for their consumption. GTO has reached the end of its useful life and is being replaced by Quorum Pipeline Transportation Management (QPTM). The go-live date for QPTM is September 1, 2019.

Because general references to Black Hills' EBB remain in the tariffs, Staff finds the removal of specific references to GTO to be non-substantive changes. Black Hills may still use GTO as its EBB during the transition phase to QPTM and no tariff change will be required to specify QPTM as the EBB when it is live. Therefore, Staff recommends approval of Black Hill's proposed changes to its Transportation Service Schedules.

BACKGROUND:

On August 13, 2018, Black Hills filed an Application proposing revisions to its Transportation Tariff schedules to remove specific references to its electronic bulletin board application GTO.

GTO and its companion software, Gas Track, provide functionality to allow Customers subscribing to transportation service to submit nominations informing Black Hills Energy of the quantity of gas that will be received each gas day for consumption by the Customer, provide

notifications to Customers, facilitate Customer enrollment in aggregated transportation services, etc. However, the current GTO application has reached the end of its useful life—Gas Track was written in a programming language which is no longer supported by Microsoft.

GTO is being replaced by an application called QPTM. Black Hills has been using the existing notification structure within GTO to ensure any impacted customers are aware of the changes as implementation is ready. The planned go-live date of QPTM for Kansas customers is September 1, 2019. Training for customers will be taking place in summer 2019.¹

ANALYSIS:

Staff has reviewed Black Hills’ proposal and finds the proposed changes to its tariff to be non-substantive. The proposed tariff changes do not affect rates. Although specific references to GTO are removed from the tariff, general references to Black Hills’ EBB remain so Black Hills may still use GTO as its EBB during the transition phase and no tariff change will be required to specify QPTM as the EBB once it is live. Staff recommends approval of Black Hill’s proposed changes to its Transportation Service Schedules.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Black Hill’s proposed changes to its Transportation Service Schedules.

¹ Background details about GTO and QPTM were provided in Black Hills’ response to Staff data request 1.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

19-BHCG-065-TAR

I, the undersigned, certify that the true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following parties by means of first class mail/hand delivered on 09/07/2018.

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/S/ DeeAnn Shupe

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