Service

Title 4—DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Division 240—Public Service Commission

Chapter 13—Service and Billing Practices for Residential Customers of Electric, Gas and Water Utilities

4 CSR 240-13.010 General Provisions

PURPOSE: This rule describes in general terms the provisions of this chapter.

- (1) This chapter applies to residential utility service provided by all electric, gas and water public utilities, referred to in this chapter as utilities, which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission under the laws of the state.
- (2) A utility shall not discriminate against a customer or applicant for service for exercising any right granted by this chapter.
- (3) The informal procedures contained in these rules shall not constitute a formal complaint as defined in 4 CSR 240-2.070.
- (4) A utility shall adopt rules governing its relations with customers and applicants for service which are consistent with this chapter. The rules shall be part of a utility's tariffs. Any tariff revisions, if required to comply with this chapter or to reflect any variances therefrom previously granted by the commission, shall be filed by the utility within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this rule. Once such revised tariffs become effective, the utility's tariffs shall be deemed to be in full compliance with this chapter.

AUTHORITY: section 386.250(6), RSMo Supp. 1991 and 393.140(11), RSMo 1986.* Original rule filed Dec. 19, 1975, effective Dec. 30, 1975. Amended: Filed Oct. 14, 1977, effective Jan. 13, 1978. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Sept. 22, 1993, effective July 10, 1994.

*Original anthority: 380,250(6), RSMo 1939, amended 1963, 1967, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1991 and 393,140(11), RSMo 1939, amended 1949, 1967.

4 CSR 240-13.015 Definitions

PURPOSE: This rule defines various terms that are used in this chapter.

- (I) The following definitions shall apply to this chapter:
- (A) Applicant means an individual(s) who has applied to receive residential service from the utility;

- (B) Bill means a written demand for payment for service and the taxes and franchise fees related to it:
- (C) Billing period means a normal usage period of not less than twenty-six (26) nor more than thirty-five (35) days for a monthly billed customer nor more than one hundred (100) days for a quarterly billed customer, except for initial, corrected or final bills;
- (D) Complaint means an informal or formal complaint under 4 CSR 240-2.070;
- (E) Customer means a person or legal entity responsible for payment for service except one denoted as a guarantor;
- (F) Cycle billing means a system which results in the rendition of bills to various customers on different days of a month;
- (G) Delinquent charge means a charge remaining unpaid by a monthly billed customer at least twenty-one (21) days and for at least sixteen (16) days by a quarterly billed customer from the rendition of the bill by the utility or a charge remaining unpaid after the preferred payment date selected by the customer;
- (H) Delinquent date means the date stated on a bill, which shall be at least twenty-one (21) days for a monthly billed customer, and at least sixteen (16) days for a quarterly billed customer from the rendition of the bill or which shall be the preferred payment plan date selected by the customer, after which the utility may assess an approved late payment charge in accordance with a utility tariff on file with the commission;
- (I) <u>Denial of service</u> means the utility's refusal to commence service upon an applicant's request for service at a particular location:
- (J) Deposit means a money advance to a utility for the purpose of securing payment of delinquent charges which might accrue to the customer who made the advance;
- (K) Discontinuance of service or discontinuance means a cessation of service not requested by a customer;
- (L) Due date means the date stated on a bill when the charge is considered due and payable:
- (M) Estimated bill means a charge for utility service which is not based on an actual reading of the meter or other registering device by an authorized utility representative;
- (N) Extension agreement means a verbal agreement between the utility and the customer extending payment for fifteen (15) days or less:
- (O) Guarantee means a written promise from a third party to assume liability up to a specified amount for delinquent charges which might accrue to a particular customer:
- (P) In dispute means any matter regarding a charge or service which is the subject of an unresolved inquiry;

- (Q) Late payment charge means an assessment on a delinquent charge in accordance with a utility tariff on file with the commission and in addition to the delinquent charge;
- (R) Preferred payment date plan means a commission-approved plan offered at the utility's option in which the delinquent date for the charges stated on a bill shall occur on the same day during each billing period as selected by the customer;
- (S) Purchased gas adjustment clause means the adjustment procedure approved by the commission to recognize variations in the cost of purchased gas:
- (T) Rendition of a bill means the mailing or hand delivery of a bill by a utility to a customer;
- (U) Residential service or service means the provision of or use of a utility service for domestic purposes;
- (V) Seasonally billed customer means a residential customer billed on a seasonal basis in accordance with a utility tariff on file with the commission:
- (W) Settlement agreement means an agreement between a customer and a utility which resolves any matter in dispute between the parties or provides for the payment of undisputed charges over a period longer than the customer's normal billing period;
- (X) Tariff means a schedule of rates, services and rules approved by the commission:
- (Y) Termination of service or termination means a cessation of service requested by a customer;
- (Z) Utility means an electric, gas or water corporation as those terms are defined in section 386,020, RSMo; and
- (AA) Utility charges means the rates for utility service and other charges authorized by the commission as an integral part of utility service.

AUTHORITY: sections 386.250(6) and 393.140(II), RSMo 2000.* Original rule filed Sept. 22, 1993, effective July 10, 1994. Amended: Filed March 24, 2004, effective Oct. 30, 2004.

*Original authority: 386,250(6), RSMo 1939, amended 1963, 1967, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1991, 1995, 1995, 1996 and 393,140(11), RSMo 1939, amended 1949, 1967

4 CSR 240-13.020 Billing and Payment Standards

PURPOSE: This rule establishes reasonable and uniform billing and payment standards to be observed by utilities and customers.

- (1) Service may be discontinued for any of the following reasons:
- (A) Nonpayment of an undisputed delinquent charge;
- (B) Failure to post a required deposit or guarantee;
- (C) Unauthorized interference, diversion or use of the utility service situated or delivered on or about the customer's premises;
- (D) Failure to comply with terms of a settlement agreement;
- (E) Refusal after reasonable notice to permit inspection, maintenance, replacement or meter reading of utility equipment. If the utility has a reasonable belief that health or safety is at risk, notice at the time inspection is attempted is reasonable;
- (F) Misrepresentation of identity in obtaining utility service;
- (G) Violation of any other rules of the utility approved by the commission which adversely affects the safety of the customer or other persons or the integrity of the utility's system; or
 - (H) As provided by state or federal law.
- (2) None of the following shall constitute sufficient cause for a utility to discontinue service:
- (A) The failure of a customer to pay for merchandise, appliances or services not subject to commission jurisdiction as an integral part of the utility service provided by a utility;
- (B) The failure of the customer to pay for service received at a separate metering point, residence or location. In the event of discontinuance or termination of service at a separate residential metering point, residence or location in accordance with these rules, a utility may transfer and bill any unpaid balance to any other residential service account of the customer and may discontinue service after twenty-one (21) days after rendition of the combined bill, for nonpayment, in accordance with this rule;
- (C) The failure of the customer to pay for a different class of service received at the same or different location. The placing of more than one (1) meter at the same location for the purpose of billing the usage of specific devices under optional rate schedules or provisions is not construed as a different class of service for the purpose of this rule;
- (D) The failure to pay the bill of another customer, unless the customer whose service is sought to be discontinued received substantial benefit and use of the service;
- (E) The failure of a previous owner or occupant of the premises to pay an unpaid or

- delinquent bill except where the previous occupant remains an occupant or user; or
- (F) The failure to pay a bill correcting a previous underbilling, whenever the customer claims an inability to pay the corrected amount, unless a utility has offered the customer a payment arrangement equal to the period of underbilling.
- (3) On the date specified on the notice of discontinuance or within eleven (11) business days after that, and subject to the requirements of these rules, a utility may discontinue service to a residential customer between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Service shall not be discontinued on a day when utility personnel are not available to reconnect the customer's service, or on a day immediately preceding such a day. After the eleven (11) business day effective period of the notice, all notice procedures required by this rule shall again be followed before the utility may discontinue service.
- (4) The notice of discontinuance shall contain the following information:
- (A) The name and address of the customer and the address, if different, where service is rendered;
- (B) A statement of the reason for the proposed discontinuance of service and the cost for reconnection;
- (C) The date on or after which service will be discontinued unless appropriate action is
- (D) How a customer may avoid the discontinuance:
- (E) The possibility of a settlement agreement if the claim is for a charge not in dispute and the customer is unable to pay the charge in full at one (1) time; and
- (F) A telephone number the customer may call from the service location without incurring toll charges and the address of the utility prominently displayed where the customer may make an inquiry. Charges for measured local service are not toll charges for purposes of this rule.
- (5) A utility shall not discontinue residential service pursuant to section (1) unless written notice by first class mail is sent to the customer at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the proposed discontinuance. Service of notice by mail is complete upon mailing. As an alternative, a utility may deliver a written notice in hand to the customer at least ninety-six (96) hours prior to discontinuance. A utility shall maintain an accurate record of the date of mailing or delivery. A notice of dis-

continuance of service shall not be issued as to that portion of a bill which is determined to be an amount in dispute pursuant to sections 4 CSR 240-13.045(5) or (6) that is currently the subject of a dispute pending with the utility or complaint before the commission, nor shall such a notice be issued as to any bill or portion of a bill which is the subject of a settlement agreement except after breach of a settlement agreement, unless the utility inadvertently issues the notice, in which case the utility shall take necessary steps to withdraw or cancel this notice.

(6) Notice shall be provided as follows:

- (A) At least ten (10) days prior to discontinuance of service for nonpayment of a bill or deposit at a multidwelling unit residential building at which usage is measured by a single meter, notices of the company's intent to discontinue shall be conspicuously posted in public areas of the building; provided, however, that these notices shall not be required if the utility is not aware that the structure is a single-metered multidwelling unit residential building. The notices shall include the date on or after which discontinuance may occur and advise of tenant rights pursuant to section 441.650, RSMo. The utility shall not be required to provide notice in individual situations where safety of employees is a consideration.
- (B) At least ten (10) days prior to discontinuance of service for nonpayment of a bill or deposit at a multidwelling unit residential building where each unit is individually metered and for which a single customer is responsible for payment for service to all units in the building or at a residence in which the occupant using utility service is not the utility's customer, the utility shall give the occupant(s) written notice of the utility's intent to discontinue service; provided, however, that this notice shall not be required unless one (1) occupant has advised the utility or the utility is otherwise aware that s/he is not the customer; and
- (C) In the case of a multidwelling unit residential building where each unit is individually metered or in the case of a single family residence, the notice provided to the occupant of the unit about to be discontinued shall outline the procedure by which the occupant may apply in his/her name for service of the same character presently received through that meter
- (7) At least twenty-four (24) hours preceding a discontinuance, a utility shall make reasonable efforts to contact the customer to advise



him/her of the proposed discontinuance and what steps must be taken to avoid it. Reasonable efforts shall include either a written notice following the notice pursuant to section (4), a doorhanger or at least two (2) telephone call attempts reasonably calculated to reach the customer.

- (8) Immediately preceding the discontinuance of service, the employee of the utility designated to perform this function, except where the safety of the employee is endangered, shall make a reasonable effort to contact and identify him/herself to the customer or a responsible person then upon the premises and shall announce the purpose of his/her presence. When service is discontinued, the employee shall leave a notice upon the premises in a manner conspicuous to the customer that service has been discontinued and the address and telephone number of the utility where the customer may arrange to have service restored.
- (9) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, a utility shall postpone a discontinuance for a time not in excess of twenty-one (21) days if the discontinuance will aggravate an existing medical emergency of the customer, a member of his/her family or other permanent resident of the premises where service is rendered. Any person who alleges a medical emergency, if requested, shall provide the utility with reasonable evidence of the necessity.
- (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this rule, a utility may discontinue residential service temporarily for reasons of maintenance, health, safety or a state of emergency.
- (fl) Upon the customer's request, a utility shall restore service consistent with all other provisions of this chapter when the cause for discontinuance has been eliminated, applicable restoration charges have been paid and, if required, satisfactory credit arrangements have been made. At all times, a reasonable effort shall be made to restore service upon the day restoration is requested, and in any event, restoration shall be made not later than the next working day following the day requested by the customer. The utility may charge the customer a reasonable fee for restoration of service, if provided in the utility's approved tariffs.

AUTHORITY: sections 386,250(6), RSMo Supp. 1991 and 393.140(11), RSMo 1986.* Original rule filed Dec. 19, 1975, effective

Dec. 30, 1975. Amended: Filed Oct. 14, 1977, effective Jan. 13, 1978. Emergency amendment filed Jan. 30, 1984, effective Feb. 9, 1984, expired April 1, 1984. Rescinded and readopted: Filed Sept. 22, 1993, effective July 10, 1994.

"Original authority: 386.250(6), RSMo 1939, amended 1963, 1967, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1988, 1991 and 393.140(11) 1939, amended 1949, 1967.

4 CSR 240-13.055 Cold Weather Maintenance of Service; Provision of Residential Heat-Related Utility Service During Cold Weather

PURPOSE: This rule protects the health and safety of residential customers receiving heat-related utility service by placing restrictions on discontinuing and refusing to provide heat-related utility service from November 1 through March 31 due to delinquent accounts of those customers. Reporting requirements regarding heat-related utility service are found at 4 CSR 240-3.175 for electric utilities and at 4 CSR 240-3.250 for gas utilities.

- (1) The following definitions shall apply in this rule:
- (A) Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) means the federal ECIP administered by the Missouri Division of Family Services under section 660.100, RSMo;
- (B) Heat-related utility service means any gas or electric service that is necessary to the proper function and operation of a customer's heating equipment:
- (C) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) means the federal LIHEAP administered by the Missouri Family Support Division under section 660.110, RSMo;
- (D) Registered elderly or disabled customer means a customer's household where at least one (1) member of the household has filed with the utility a form approved by the utility attesting to the fact that s/he:
 - 1. Is sixty-five (65) years old or older;
- 2. Is disabled to the extent that s/he has filed with their utility a medical form submitted by a medical physician attesting that such customer's household must have natural gas or electric utility service provided in the home to maintain life or health; or
- 3. Has a formal award letter issued from the federal government of disability benefits. In order to retain his/her status as a registered elderly or disabled customer, each such customer must renew his/her registration with the utility annually. Such registration

should take place by October 1 of each year following his/her initial registration; and

- (E) Low income registered elderly or disabled customer means a customer registered under the provisions of subsection (1)(C) of this rule whose household income is less than one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the federal poverty guidelines, and who has a signed affidavit attesting to that fact on file with the utility. The utility may periodically audit the incomes of low income registered elderly or disabled customers. If, as a result of an audit, a registered low income elderly or disabled customer is found to have materially misrepresented his/her income at the time the affidavit was signed, that customer's service may be discontinued per the provisions of this rule that apply to customers who are not registered low income elderly or disabled customers and payment of all amounts due, as well as, a deposit may be required before service is reconnected.
- (2) This rule takes precedence over other rules on provision of heat-related utility service from November 1 through March 31 annually.
- (3) Notice Requirements. From November 1 through March 31, prior to discontinuance of service due to nonpayment, the utility shall—
- (A) Notify the customer, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the proposed discontinuance, by first-class mail, and in the case of a registered elderly or handicapped customer the additional party listed on the customer's registration form of the utility's intent to discontinue service. The contact with the registered individual shall include initially two (2) or more telephone call attempts with the mailing of the notice;
- (B) Make further attempts to contact the customer within ninety-six (96) hours preceding discontinuance of service either by a second written notice as in subsection (3)(A), sent by first class mail; or a door hanger; or at least two (2) telephone call attempts to the customer:
- (C) Attempt to contact the customer at the time of the discontinuance of service in the manner specified by 4 CSR 240-13.050(8);
- (D) Make a personal contact on the premises with a registered elderly or handicapped customer or some member of the family above the age of fifteen (15) years, at the time of the discontinuance of service; and
- (E) Ensure that all of the notices and contacts required in this section shall describe the terms for provisions of service under this rule, including the method of calculating the

(9/30/04) MATT BLUNT Secretary of State

FORM NO). 13		P,S.C. M O.	No. 6	 	Second	Revised	SHEET	No.	R2.3_
Can	celli	.ng	P.S.C.MO.	No. <u>6</u>	 	First	Revised	SHEET	No	R2.3
ST. I	OUIS	COUN	TY WATER	COMPANY	 For	ST.	LOUIS C	OUNTY,	MISSOU	RI
									British Joseph St.	16 + 200 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2

DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONTINUED) (NONPAYMENT OF BILLS)

MISCOURI

1555

RULE 2.3 In all cases of nonpayment of bills by nonresidential customers within mission. sixteen days after the billing date and after due notice has been given, the supply may be turned off and not turned on again except upon payment of the amount due, together with the additional charge for restoring service at the stop cock. In cases of nonpayment of bills by residential customers within sixteen days after the billing date, the supply may be turned off and not turned on again in accordance with the provisions of 4 CSR 240-13.050, except upon payment at the Company office, during normal working hours, of the amount due, together with the appropriate additional charge for restoring service at the stop cock. In these instances the charge for turning on the water at the stop cock will be as follows:

Except holidays, restoring service between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday Regular-Hour Restoration Charge (1)

Restoring service at all off-hour times including holidays Off-Hour Restoration Charge (2)

In all cases, when water service has been discontinued, someone must be present at the premises before water service can be restored, unless, approved by the Company.

The Company will attempt to restore service during regular working hours, Monday thru Friday, on the same day the request is made at the Regular Hour Restoration Charge only if the delinquent bill and all other charges are received by the Company prior to a payment deadline of 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

If payment of the delinquent bill and all other charges including the regular hour restoration charge are received by the Company after the payment deadline of 3:00 p.m., restoration of service shall be attempted no later than the next regular working day. Should the customer require same day restoration of service after the payment deadline of 3:00 p.m. (3), then the cost of such service restoration shall require payment to the Company of the delinquent bill, all other charges, and the Off-Hour Restoration Charge prior to restoration of service.

- (1) Regular-Hour Restoration of Service as provided under tariff for Miscellaneous Charges.
- (2) This Off-Hour Restoration Charge is the actual average cost of restoring service during hours when Company service personnel are working at overtime rates. This average actual cost is reviewed annually and adjusted.
- This time is based upon historical workload requirements and is subject to

adjustment. 3661 - 8 NUC

*Indicates new rate or text +Indicates change

88-5 Public Service Commission

JUNE 17 R 1818.2

DATE O	F ISSUE	LANGUAGO OF STATE	DATE	EFFE	CTIVE _		場所 任务	1968
ISSUED	EY T.	L. Reeder, V.P. Admin.,	535 N	. New	Ballas	<u>Rd., S</u>	t. Louis	. MQ (5141

FORM NO. 13	P.S.C.MO.No.	6	First	Revised	SHEET	No	R2.3(a)
Cancelling	P.S.C.MO.No.	6		Original	SHEET	No	R2.3(a)
ST. LOUIS CO	UNTY WATER CO	MPANY	For <u>ST. L</u>	OUIS COUN	ry, MI	SSOURI.	* 11. 3 5 7 24. 3 * 6

DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE (CONTINUED) (NONPAYMENT OF BILLS)

If the Company travels to the location of the premises to restore service and no one is at the premises, then (a) a notice will be left notifying the customer that an attempt was made to restore service and no one was home, (b) restoration of service will not be attempted until the next regular work day unless the Company has service personned on duty and available when the customer calls again to have service restored, and (c) an additional Regular Hour Restoration of service charge will be made for the second and each subsequent trip during regular work days to restore service. This additional charge(s) will be added to the next regular

If it is necessary to excavate to discontinue service at the corporation cock or the stop cock, or to disconnect the water service line, a "Discontinuance Charge" will be made to the customer equivalent to the actual cost of labor, material. transportation, equipment and overhead. In addition, any needed repairs to the water service line, as identified by the Company, must be made by and at the expense of the customer or customer's agent. Such repairs must be made and the payment of the "Discontinuance Charge," in addition to the charges for restoration of service, must be paid before water can be turned back on. At the option of the Company, an "installment payment schedule" may be arranged for the payment of the "Discontinuance Charge." The Company will excavate at the corporation cock or stop cock only to discontinue service. Any subsequent excavations and/or other steps required to restore service will then be the responsibility of the customer. Service may not be restored until payment of all charges described above has been made by the customer and notice given to the Company.

FILED

JUN 8 1988

88-5 Public Service Commission

*Indicates new rate or text +Indicates change

water bill.

SSENTED ALC DATE EFFECTIVE ____ DATE EFFECTIVE ___ 3881 6 D MUU DATE OF ISSUE

Admin., 535 N. New Ballas Rd., St. Louis, MO 62161