

Respectfully Submitted,

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ATTACHMENT A

(14) This section only applies to providers of natural gas services to residential customers. Other providers of heat-related utility services will continue to provide such service under the terms of section (1) through (13) of this rule. The provisions of sections (1) through (13) of this rule continue to apply to providers of natural gas service except where inconsistent with the terms of this section.

- (A) From December 1 through March 31, notwithstanding paragraph (10)(C)2. of this rule to the contrary, a gas utility shall restore service upon initial payment of fifty percent (50%) of the preexisting arrears, with the deferred balance to be paid as provided in subsection (10)(B). Any reconnection fee, trip fee, collection fee or other fee related to reconnection, disconnection or collection shall also be deferred. Between December 1 and April 1, any customer threatened with disconnection may retain service by entering into a payment plan as described in this section. Any payment plan entered into under this section shall remain in effect (as long as its terms are adhered to) for the term of the payment plan. However, a gas utility shall not be required to offer reconnection or retention of service under this subsection (14)(A) more than once for any customer. For purposes of this paragraph any offer made by the gas utility as a result of the emergency amendment adopted by the commission effective January 1, 2006 or by the gas utility at any time subsequent to the effective date of this amendment shall be deemed to satisfy its obligations under this subsection (14) (A).
- (B) Any customer who is not disconnected or in receipt of a disconnect notice shall, at the customer's request, be permitted to enroll immediately in a gas utility's equal payment, budget-billing or similar plan. Any current bill or existing arrearage at the time of enrollment shall be dealt with consistent with paragraphs 10(B)1 through (10)(B)4. of this rule, provided that the customer agrees to make the initial payment prescribed in paragraph 10(C)1. or subsection (14)(A) as applicable.
- (C) If a customer enters into a cold weather rule payment plan under this section:
 - 1. Late payment charges shall not be assessed except with respect to failure to make timely payments under the payment plan; and
 - 2. The gas utility shall not charge customers interest on the account balance for any deferral period.
- (D) Any customer who enters into a cold weather rule payment agreement under this section and fully complies with the terms of the payment plan shall be treated, going forward, as not having defaulted on any cold weather rule payment agreement.
- (E) A gas utility shall describe the provisions of section (14) in any notices or contacts with customers. In telephone contacts with customers expressing difficulty paying their gas bills, gas utilities shall inform those customers of their options under section (14).

(F) A gas utility shall be permitted to apply any income eligibility requirements approved by the Commission pursuant to section (13) of this rule to customers seeking to take advantage of the payment terms set forth in this section.

(G) A gas utility shall be permitted to recover the costs of complying with this rule as follows:

1. Each gas utility shall be authorized to defer for recovery from, or return to, customers in any existing or subsequent general rate case proceeding, the difference between the cumulative monthly net write-off amounts reflected in its base, non-gas rates as of January 1, 2006 and the cumulative monthly net write-off amounts actually experienced by the utility subsequent to that date. Such deferred amounts, either negative or positive, shall be amortized over a three year period as a component of the rates established in each applicable general rate case proceeding.;
2. Initially, the amount of net write-offs reflected in the gas utility's rates shall be that amount actually experienced by the gas corporation for the calendar year ending December 31, 2005, or, if the gas utility concluded a general rate case proceeding in calendar year 2005, the average of the amounts recommended by the gas corporation and the commission Staff or the amount ordered by the commission. In each general rate case proceeding concluded subsequent to 2005, the level of net write-offs reflected in rates shall be the average of the amounts recommended by the gas utility and the commission staff, unless a different amount has been agreed upon by the parties or determined by the commission, plus or minus any unamortized or over-amortized amounts from any previous deferral period.;
- and
3. In each subsequent rate case proceeding, the new deferral period shall commence immediately following the end of the latest update period used to derive the level of net write-offs reflected in the rates established in that case. The failure of a gas utility to be subject to a rate case within a specific period of time shall not in any way abrogate its rights to recover such reasonably incurred costs and interest in a subsequent general rate case.