

CR 82-217

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
) ss.
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION)

TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETINGS:

I, Jacqueline K. Reynolds, Secretary of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, and custodian of the official records of said commission, do hereby certify that the annexed order amending sec. PSC 185.32 and adopting sec. PSC 185.37(2)(d), was duly approved and adopted by this commission on March 3, 1983.

I further certify that said copy has been compared by me with the original on file in this commission and that the same is a true copy thereof, and of the whole of such original.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the commission at the Hill Farms State Office Building, in the City of Madison this 7th day of March, 1983.


Jacqueline K. Reynolds
Secretary of the Public Service
Commission of Wisconsin

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COMPARED WITH AND CERTIFIED BY ME
TO BE A FULL, TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE IN MY OFFICE

MAR 3 1983

Jacqueline K. Reynolds

Secretary to the Commission
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

DATE MAILED

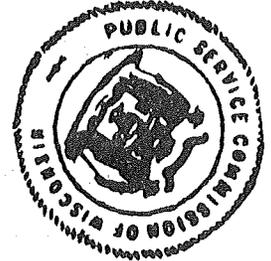
MAR 7 1983

BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Rules Permitting Water)
Utilities to Disconnect)
the Service of Customers)
Who do not Allow Meter)
Reading)

1-AC-50



ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ADOPTING RULES

To amend sec. PSC 185.32 and adopt sec. PSC 185.37(2)(d);
Wis. Adm. Code, permitting water utilities to disconnect the
service of customers who do not allow meter reading.

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

The commission recently adopted rules allowing gas and
electric utilities to disconnect the service of customers who
refuse to permit meter reading at least once every six months.
Although customers who do not allow reading of water meters
present the same problem, amendment of Ch. PSC 185 rules was not
made.

The rules now being adopted will allow the same
protection to water utilities (PSC 185.37(2)(d)) yet require them
to take reasonable steps to read the meters of customers who are
unavailable for meter reading during normal business hours. (PSC
185.32).

Under the rule, water utilities which bill customers on a one or two month billing cycle will be able to disconnect customers who do not allow meter reading once every six months. Utilities which bill quarterly or over longer billing cycles will be able to disconnect if meter reading is not allowed once every nine months.

Prior to disconnection for failure to allow meter reading, as for other reasons, the utility must comply with sec. PSC 185.37(8).

PROPOSED RULES AND
STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Pursuant to authority vested in the Public Service Commission by secs. 196.02, 196.16, 196.37(2), and 227.014, Stats., the commission adopts rules as follows:

SECTION 1: PSC 185.32 will be amended to read:

PSC 185.32 Meter readings and billing periods. Readings of all meters used for determining charges to customers shall be taken by the utility monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, semi-annually or for such other period or in such other manner as may be authorized by the commission. An effort shall be made to read meters on corresponding days of each meter-reading period. The meter reading date may be advanced or postponed not more than 10 days without adjustment of the billing period. Bills for services shall be rendered within 50 days from the reading of the meter except as may be otherwise specifically authorized by the commission. The utility shall make reasonable efforts to read the meters of customers who cannot be available during normal business hours.

SECTION 2: PSC 185.37(2)(d) will be created to

read:

Refusal or failure to permit authorized utility personnel to read the meter at least once every six months where the utility bills monthly or bimonthly, or at least once every nine months where the utility bills quarterly or less frequently than quarterly. The six month or nine month period begins with the date of the last meter reading.

There will be no fiscal impact of the proposed rules on the state or municipalities.

The proposed rules have been be forwarded to the legislature for review pursuant to sec. 227.018, Stats. They will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, as provided in sec. 227.026, Stats.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin

March 3, 1983

By the Commission.

Jacqueline K. Reynolds
Jacqueline K. Reynolds
Secretary to the Commission

REPORT

A.B. FINDINGS OF FACT: NEED FOR RULES.

The rules allowing disconnection of water service when customers refuse to allow meter reading were proposed when a number of water utilities complained that such refusals added greatly to their costs. At the hearing, all participants favored the rule as a means of reducing these costs. Two water utility representatives, from Madison and Milwaukee, testified to the extra costs incurred as a result of refusals to allow meter reading, and the commission finds that the proposed rules will reduce these costs and should be adopted.

C. MODIFICATIONS AS A RESULT OF HEARING.

None.

D. APPEARING AT THE HEARING.

James S. Kelly
Financial Manager
Madison Water Utility

Richard A. Stehmeier
Asst. Business Manager
Milwaukee Water Works

David Eggers
Assistant Administrator
Watertown Water Department

Michael C. Olesen
Manager
Watertown Water Department

E. RESPONSE TO LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL REPORT.

The editorial changes suggested by the Legislative Council have been made.