

CR 89-4

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
)
PUBLIC SERVICE) ss. File 1-AC-126
COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN)

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 adopting rules was duly approved and adopted by this Commission on October 10, 1989.

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 Hill Farms State Transportation Building in the City of Madison, WI October 13, 1989.

Charles H. Thompson
Jacqueline K. Reynolds *Chairman*
Secretary to the Commission
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

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BEFORE THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Amendment of Standards for)
Gas Service, Chapter PSC 134) 1-AC-126

ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
CREATING RULES

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission adopts this order to amend ss. PSC 134.14(1), (2), (4) and (5), 134.26(2), 134.26(5), 134.28(1), 134.28(2), 134.30(1), 134.30(4), 134.31(1) and (2); to renumber and amend 134.14(5); and to create ss. PSC 134.14(5)(b), 134.26(8) and 134.291.

ANALYSIS PREPARED BY THE

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

From time to time, the Public Service Commission updates and revises rules in chapter PSC 134, concerning the provision of natural gas service by public utilities in Wisconsin. Revisions are made to reflect current developments in the gas industry and to clarify and update existing rules.

The changes proposed in this order accomplish the following:

(1) PSC 134.14 is amended to require recalculation of bills when meter error tests show an error of more than two percent rather than the present three percent. Sub. (5) of that rule specifies the instances where backbilling must be done by the utility.

(2) PSC 134.26(5) is amended to require the testing of meter testing equipment every six months.

(3) PSC 134.26(2) is amended to allow different types of provers to be used.

(4) A new PSC 134.26(8) is created which sets forth temperature requirements for meter testing and storage.

(5) The meter testing requirements of s. PSC 134.28 are revised.

(6) Entirely new meter testing requirements are set forth in newly created PSC 134.291.

(7) The meter testing interval of PSC 134.30(1) has been increased from once every 144 months to once every 180 months.

(8) The testing interval for rotary meters in PSC 134.30(4) has been doubled.

Pursuant to authority vested in the Public Service Commission by ss. 196.02, 196.16, and 227.11(2)(a), Stats., the Commission adopts the following amendments:

SECTION 1: PSC 134.14(1) and (2) are amended to read:

134.14 ADJUSTMENT OF BILLS. (1) Whenever a meter is found to have ~~an-error~~ a weighted average error of more than ~~3%~~ 2 percent fast as ~~determined~~ tested in the manner specified in s. PSC 134.28 ~~under-any-load-condition~~, a recalculation of bills for service shall be made for the period of inaccuracy assuming an inaccuracy equal to ~~the-maximum-fast-percentage~~. the weighted

average error. Weighted average error refers to 80 percent of the open rate plus 20 percent of the check rate. The recalculation shall be made on the basis that the service meter should be 100 percent accurate.

(2) If the period of inaccuracy cannot be determined, it shall be assumed that the full amount of the inaccuracy existed during the last half of the period since the previous test was made on the meter; however, the period of accuracy shall not exceed one-half the required test period.

Example: If the meter test period is 15 years and the meter had been in service for 16 years, the period of accuracy shall be 7-1/2 years, and the period of inaccuracy shall be 8-1/2 years.

SECTION 1m: PSC 134.14(4) is amended to read:

(4) If the recalculated bills indicate that more than \$1 is due an existing customer or \$2 is due a person no longer a customer of the utility, the full amount of the calculated difference between the amount paid and the recalculated amount shall be refunded to the customer. The refund to an existing customer ~~may be in cash or as credit on a bill~~ shall be a credit to the customer's current bill. If the amount of the credit is greater than the current bill, the amount in excess of the current bill shall, at the discretion of the customer, be made in cash or as credit on future bills. If a refund is due a person no longer a customer of the utility, a notice shall be

mailed to the last known address, and the utility shall upon request made within 3 months thereafter refund the amount due.

SECTION 2: PSC 134.14(5) is renumbered PSC 134.14(5)(a) and amended to read:

(5) (a) Whenever a meter with a rated capacity of 400 cubic feet per hour (CFH) or more is found to be have a weighted average error of more than 3% 2 percent slow, the utility ~~may~~ shall bill the customer for the amount the test indicates has been undercharged for the period of inaccuracy, which period shall not exceed the last ~~6-months~~ two years the meter was in service unless otherwise ordered by the commission after investigation. No back billing for an inaccurate meter will be sanctioned ~~if~~ for the following:

1. The customer has called to the company's attention his or her doubts as to the meter's accuracy and the company has failed within a reasonable time to check it.

2. The rated capacity of the meter is 399 cubic feet per hour (CFH) or less.

3. The amount of the backbill is less than \$50.

SECTION 3: PSC 134.14(5)(b) is created to read:

(b) Backbilling shall be required for any size meter for any of the following circumstances.

1. The meter did not register.

2. An incorrect correction factor or meter constant was applied.
3. The meter or service were tampered with.
4. An incorrect index or gear ratio was applied.
5. Meters were switched between customers.
6. Rates were misapplied.

SECTION 4: PSC 134.26(2) is amended to read:

(2) Each public utility giving gas service shall own and maintain, except as provided in sub. (1), ~~an industry-approved a~~ meter prover of a sufficient capacity of not less than 5 cubic feet to test meters in accordance with PSC 134.28. The meter prover shall be complete with all accessories needed for accurate meter testing, shall be suitably located for meter testing, and shall be protected from drafts and excessive temperature changes. The equipment shall be maintained in good condition and correct adjustment and be capable of determining the accuracy of service meters to within one-half of one percent. When the meter prover is used to test temperature-compensating meters, there shall be present a temperature-indicating device to accurately determine the temperature of the prover to within +/- 1 degree Fahrenheit.

SECTION 5: PSC 134.26(5) is amended to read:

(5) All instruments and equipment used for testing of meters shall be maintained in good condition and correct adjustment and

be capable of determining the accuracy of service meters to within one-half of one percent. Bell type provers shall be checked at least once each three years against a standard by either the bottling or strapping method. All electrical and electronic equipment associated with testing equipment shall be tested every six months.

SECTION 6: PSC 134.26(8) is created to read:

(8) The temperature in the proving and meter storage rooms shall not vary by more than +/- 3 degrees Fahrenheit, or testing shall be stopped. If the proving equipment can compensate for a temperature differential between the proving equipment and the meter, then testing may be performed within the proving equipment temperature specification. The proving and meter storage rooms shall be equipped with a temperature recording device. A meter shall be stored in the temperature controlled area a minimum of 12 hours before being tested. The meter shop shall be kept in a clean and orderly manner.

SECTION 7: PSC 134.28(1) is amended to read:

(1) Each meter test of a diaphragm type meter with a capacity of 2,400 cubic feet per hour or less shall consist of one proving at a rate of flow ~~one-fifth-or-less~~ of 15 to 30 percent of the rated capacity of that meter and one proving at a rate of flow at ~~or-greater-than~~ 90 to 120 percent of the rated capacity of the meter. The capacity of the meter for test purposes shall be the capacity at one-half inch water column differential pressure.

SECTION 8: PSC 134.28(2) is amended to read:

(2) Each meter test of a diaphragm type meter having a capacity greater than 2,400 cubic feet per hour shall consist of one proving at a rate of flow ~~one-fifth-or-less~~ of 15 to 30 percent of the rated capacity of that meter and one proving at a rate of flow of 90 to 120 percent of the rated capacity of the meter but not less than 2,500 cubic feet per hour, ~~but-not-less than-twice the minimum-test-flow~~. The capacity of the meter for test purposes shall be the capacity at one-half inch water column differential pressure.

SECTION 9: PSC 134.291 is created to read:

134.291 STATISTICAL SAMPLE TESTING PLAN FOR NEW METERS. The following new meter sample testing plan may be used for testing new meters instead of the new meter test requirements of s. PSC 134.26(1), if the Commission authorizes the adoption of the plan by a utility.

(1) Meters, as received from the manufacturer, shall be divided into homogeneous lots by manufacturers and types. The maximum number of meters in any lot may not exceed 1,000 or be less than 96. From each such lot assembled, there shall be drawn a coded sample size specified in Military Standard 414 (MIL-STD-414) dated 11 June 1957, as shown for the various group sizes using Inspection Level IV of Table A-2 on page 4 and a corresponding actual sample size as shown on Table B-3 on page 45.

The sample shall be drawn by a random method that ensures that each meter in the lot has an equal chance of being selected.

(2) The test criterion for acceptance or rejection of each lot shall be based on a separate analysis conducted at both the open and check flow rate, as specified in s. PSC 134.28(1) by means of the Standard Deviation Method, Double Specification Limit and with an Acceptable Quality Level (AQL) of .25 for the open accuracy analysis and an AQL of .40 for the check accuracy analysis as shown in Table B-3, MIL-STD-414, page 45. The statistical analysis calculations shall be made following the example on page 43 of MIL-STD-414 with the upper and lower specification limits U and L designated at 101 percent and 99 percent respectively.

(3) One nonregistering meter may be removed from the sample lot for analysis purposes and replaced with another randomly selected meter. If more than one meter in a sample is found not to be registering, the entire lot shall be rejected.

(4) A lot shall be deemed acceptable for installation if the total estimated percent defective (P) is less than the appropriate maximum allowable percent defective (M) as determined from Table B-3 under the procedures of sub. (2). All meters in an acceptable lot shall be deemed to have met the accuracy requirements of s. PSC 134.26(1) for placement in service without further testing.

(5) A lot shall be considered rejected and not acceptable for installation if the total estimated percent defective (P) exceeds the appropriate maximum allowable percent defective (M) as

determined from Table B-3 under the procedures of sub. (2). All meters in a rejected lot shall be tested and adjusted in accordance with the procedures of s. PSC 134.27 or replaced with meters meeting these requirements.

Note: Military Standard 414 is on file at offices of the Public Service Commission, Secretary of State and Revisor of Statutes offices.

SECTION 10: PSC 134.30(1) is amended to read:

134.30(1) All diaphragm meters that are measuring dry gas and have nonabsorptive type diaphragms or were rediaphragmed since the introduction of dry gas shall be due for removal from service, tested, adjusted, repaired if necessary, and retested if reused every ~~144~~ 180 months if the meter capacity is 2,400 cubic feet per hour or less at 1/2-inch water column and every 48 months if the capacity is greater than 2,400 cubic feet. Meters shall be tested during the calendar year in which the ~~144~~, 180th, or 48th month falls.

SECTION 11: PSC 134.30(4) is amended to read:

134.30(4) Rotary meters having a capacity of 15,000 cubic feet per hour or less at 4 oz. water column pressure shall be given a differential test at least once every ~~48~~ 96 months and once every ~~24~~ 48 months if the capacity is greater than 15,000

cubic feet. When the differential differs from the original test record by more than 50% percent, the meter shall be cleaned and/or repaired.

SECTION 12: PSC 134.31(1) and (2) are amended to read:

134.31 REQUEST AND REFEREE TESTS. (1) Each utility furnishing gas service shall make a test of the accuracy of any gas meter upon request of the customer, provided the customer does not request such test more frequently than once in six months. A report giving the results of each request test shall be made to the customer, and the complete, original record shall be kept on file in the office of the utility. A customer or group of customers may not abuse the request test procedures. Abuse shall be determined by the Commission.

(2) Any gas meter may be tested by a Commission inspector upon written application of the customer. For such test, a fee shall be forwarded to the Commission by the customer with the application. The amount of this fee shall be refunded to the customer by the utility if the meter is found to be more than 3% 2 percent fast as determined in 134.14(1). The amount of the fee that is to be remitted for such tests shall be \$5 for each consumption meter that has a rated capacity not exceeding 1,000 cubic feet per hour; for larger consumption meters, demand meters, etc., the test fee shall be the actual expense of the test.

No additional fiscal burden will be imposed on the state or municipalities, or on small business, as a result of these rules.

Docket 1-AC-126

These proposed rules have been forwarded to the legislature for review pursuant to s. 227.19, Stats. They will take effect as final rules on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, as provided in s. 227.22(2)(a), Stats., or January 1, 1990, whichever is later.

This action is classified as a Type 3 action pursuant to PSC 2.90(3)(zh), Wis. Adm. Code. In addition, no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which would require further environmental review. It consequently requires neither an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11, Wis. Stats., nor an environmental assessment.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin,

October 12, 1989

By the Commission.

Charles W. Thompson
Jacqueline K. Reynolds *Chairman*
Secretary to the Commission

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State of Wisconsin \ PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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MARY LOU MUNTS, COMMISSIONER
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P. O. Box 7854
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October 13, 1989

Mr. Gary Poulson
Assistant Revisor of Statutes
Suite 904
30 West Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Amendment of Standards for Gas Service, Chapter PSC 134 -
Docket 1-AC-126

Dear Mr. Poulson:

Enclosed please find two copies (one certified) of an order of the Public Service Commission adopting rules in the above-entitled matter.

The rules have been seen by legislative committees.

Sincerely,

Steven Levine
Assistant Chief Counsel

Enc.

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