

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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indicating final ownership and responsibility for maintaining equipment furnished by utility.

(12) Statement of the type of special construction commonly requested by customers which the utility allows to be connected, and terms upon which such construction will be permitted, with due provision for the avoidance of unjust discrimination as between customers who request special construction and those who do not. This applies, for example, to a case where a customer desires underground service in overhead territory.

(13) Rules with which prospective customers must comply as a condition of receiving service, and the terms of contracts required.

(14) Rules governing the establishment of credit by customers for payment of service bills.

(15) Rules governing the procedure followed in disconnecting and reconnecting service.

(16) Notice by customer required for having service discontinued.

(17) Rules covering temporary, emergency, auxiliary, and stand-by service.

(18) Rules covering the type of equipment which may or may not be connected, including rules such as those requiring demand-limiting devices or power-factor corrective equipment.

PSC 113.115 Forms to be filed. On or before May 1 of each year, all public utilities rendering electric service in Wisconsin who report to the federal power commission on form 12-12A or form 12D shall supply a copy of such report to the public service commission.

History: Cr. Register, March, 1963. No. 87, eff. 4-1-63.

PSC 113.12 Information available to customers. (1) Each utility shall have available in its offices where payments are received, copies of its rates and rules applicable to the locality. The rates and rules shall be available for customer inspection, and reasonable notice as to their availability shall be provided to customers.

(2) Each electric utility, for every municipality in which it serves shall provide in the respective telephone directories a telephone listing by which the utility can be notified during a 24-hour day of any utility service deficiency or emergency which may exist.

(3) Where a second language is common in a particular area served by the utility and so identified by the commission, all rules pertaining to billing and credit shall be available upon customer request, for distribution in English and that second language in every business office of the utility in that area accessible to the public and where customer payments are received.

(4) Each utility shall provide written notice to its residential customers annually, and a written notice to all new residential customers, at a minimum, of the rules on deposits, payment options including deferred payment agreements and budget billing, disconnection and dispute procedures; of the availability of information on energy conservation practices and of the availability of agencies or programs which may provide financial aid assistance or counseling; and contain a reply procedure to

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allow customers an opportunity to advise the utility of any special circumstances, such as the presence of infants or elderly persons or the use of human life-sustaining equipment, and to advise the utility to contact a specific third party agency or individual prior to any disconnection action being taken.

History: 1-2-56; emerg. cr. (3) and (4), eff. 1-21-75; cr. (3) and (4), Register, January, 1975, No. 229, eff. 2-1-75; r. and recr. (1), r. (2), renum. (3) and (4) to be (2) and (3), cr. (4), Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79.

PSC 113.131 Deposits. (1) **NEW RESIDENTIAL SERVICE.** A utility shall not require a cash deposit or other guarantee as a condition of new service unless a customer has an outstanding account balance with the utility which accrued within the last 6 years, and which at the time of the request for new service remains outstanding and not in dispute. (See Wis. Adm. Code section PSC 113.134).

(2) **EXISTING RESIDENTIAL SERVICE.** A utility shall not require a cash deposit or other guarantee as a condition of continued service unless either or both of the following circumstances apply.

(a) The utility has shut off or discontinued the service of the customer within the last 12-month period for violation of the utility's filed rules or for nonpayment of a delinquent service account not currently in dispute.

(b) Subsequent credit information indicates that the initial application for service was falsified or incomplete to the extent that a deposit would be required under this section.

(3) **COMMERCIAL SERVICE.** (a) In the case of commercial service if the credit of an applicant for service has not been established satisfactorily to the utility, he may be required to deposit a sum not exceeding the estimated gross bills for service for any 2 consecutive billing periods selected by the utility.

(b) In the case of commercial service, the deposit shall be refunded after 24 consecutive months of prompt payment, if the customer's credit standing is satisfactory to the utility.

(c) In the case of commercial accounts, payment shall be considered "prompt" if it is made prior to notice of disconnection for nonpayment not in dispute.

(4) **CONDITIONS OF DEPOSIT.** The maximum deposit for a new account shall not exceed the highest estimated gross bill for any 2 consecutive months. Deposits for existing accounts shall not exceed the highest actual gross bill for any 2 consecutive months within the preceding 12-month review period as determined by the utility.

(5) **INTEREST.** Deposits shall bear interest of at least the legal rate, payable from the date of deposit to the date of refund or discontinuance of service, whichever is earlier.

(6) **REVIEW.** The utility shall review the payment record of each residential utility customer with a deposit on file at 12-month intervals. The utility shall not require or continue to require a cash deposit unless a deposit is required under the provisions of section PSC 113.131(2).

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PART III
CHARGES AND BILLING

PSC 113.15 Meter readings and billing periods. Readings of all meters used for determining charges to customers shall be scheduled monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, or semiannually. 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 5 days without adjustment of the billing for the period. Bills for service shall be rendered within 40 days from the reading of the meter except as may be otherwise specifically authorized by the commission. The utility may permit the customer to supply the meter readings on a form supplied by the utility, provided a utility representative reads the meter at least once each 6 months and when there is a change of customer.

PSC 113.16 Billing. (1) (a) Each bill, including the customer's receipt, shall show the present and last preceding meter readings, the date of the present reading, the number of units consumed, the class of service if other than residential, and the rate schedule under which the bill is computed. In lieu of including the rate schedule on the bill the utility may, whenever a rate change becomes effective and at least twice a year, supply each customer with the schedule of rates at which the bills are computed and any other rates that might be applicable. Bills rendered at rates requiring the measurement of a number of different factors shall show all data necessary for the customer to check the computation of the bill. Minimum and estimated bills shall be distinctly marked as such.

(b) If the utility is authorized to make late payment charges, such charges shall comply with the following requirements.

1. The bill shall clearly indicate the amount of the late payment charge and the date after which the late payment charge shall be applied.

2. Late payment charges shall be applied no sooner than 20 days after the date of issuance of the bill.

3. The amount of the late payment charge shall be 3% of the bill, except a minimum charge of 30¢ shall apply.

4. Late payment charges shall be applied to all customer classes and rate classifications.

5. The utility shall not waive any properly applied late payment charges.

6. A late payment charge shall be applied only once to any given amount outstanding.

(2) (a) If the billing period is longer or shorter than allowed in section PSC 113.15, the bill shall be prorated on a daily basis unless other provision is made in the utility's filed rules.

(b) If the utility cannot read the meter at the end of each billing period, or if the customer requests it, the utility shall leave meter-reading forms at the premises for completion by the customer. If no form is left or the form is not returned in time for the billing operation, a minimum or estimated bill may be rendered. In cases of emergency, the utility may render minimum or estimated (average) bills without reading meters or supplying meter-reading forms to customers. Only in unusual cases or

when approval is obtained from the customer shall more than 3 consecutive estimated bills be rendered.

(c) If meter reading is not scheduled on a monthly basis, the utility shall supply customers with meter-reading forms for the periods when the meter is not scheduled to be read by the utility. Customers shall not be required to provide these meter readings. If the customer informs the utility he or she does not desire to supply a reading or if the form is not returned in time for the billing operation, a minimum or estimated bill may be rendered.

(d) When an actual meter reading indicates that a previous estimated bill was abnormally high or low the utility shall calculate the bill for the entire period as if use of service was normally distributed throughout the period. The previous estimated charge shall be deducted from the re-computed total. If there is evidence to indicate that actual use was not uniform throughout the period, the billing shall be adjusted according to available information.

(3) (a) Credits due a customer because of meter inaccuracies, errors in billing, or misapplication of rates shall be shown separately and identified.

(b) The original billing rendered because of meter inaccuracy, or errors in billing, shall be separated from the regular bill and the charges explained in detail.

(4) Each bill for service shall be computed at the proper filed rate and the rate used shall be the cheapest applicable rate based on 12 months' use of service. If the customer's use is such that it is difficult to be certain what rate should be applied until there has been 12 months' use, the billing shall be adjusted on the first bill following the end of the 12 month use period.

(a) This rule does not prohibit contracts having terms longer than 1 year but does require that the rates paid under such contracts be the utility's lowest applicable rates on file with the commission.

(b) This rule applies to service as it is being supplied. If the customer could reduce his or her bills by installing equipment, combining or separating services, he or she should be notified as required by section PSC 113.16 (4) (d), but no change in rates shall be made until the customer makes the necessary changes.

(c) Where a customer is eligible to take service under more than one rate schedule, the utility shall inform the customer how to select the rate that results in the lowest cost of service, based on 12 months service and on the information at hand.

(d) The customer shall be informed of the selection of a rate every 12 months, whenever there is a change in rates that would affect the customer, and at any other time the customer so requests. The customer shall be notified if any combination of service, change in voltage of delivery, or the installation of any equipment will result in a lower cost of service.

(5) Each utility shall offer a budget payment plan to all prospective and existing residential customers and to all commercial accounts for which the primary purpose of the service is to provide for residential living, subject to the following minimum requirements.

(a) A budget payment plan tariff shall be on file with the Public Service Commission, applicable only to charges for utility services under PSC jurisdiction.

(b) A budget payment plan may be established at any time of the year. Budget payments shall be calculated on the basis of the estimated consumption and estimated applicable rates for the 12 months subsequent to establishing the plan.

(c) A prospective budget plan customer shall be informed at the time of application and an existing budget plan customer at each renewal that budget payments are subject to change at 6-month intervals in order to reflect current circumstances.

(d) Customers who have arrearages shall be allowed to establish a budget payment plan by signing a deferred payment agreement for the arrears, according to the provisions of s. PSC 113.133.

(e) Each budget plan account shall be monitored at 6-month intervals and the budget payment amount shall be appropriately adjusted if the total underbilled or overbilled balance in the account exceeds the equivalent of one budget payment amount over the full 12-month budget plan period. When an adjustment is made to a budget payment amount, the customer shall be adequately informed of the adjustment at the same time the bill containing the adjustment is rendered.

(f) Budget payment plans shall be subject to the late payment charge provisions of section PSC 113.16 (1) (b). In addition, if a budget payment is not paid, the customer shall be appropriately notified with the next billing. If proper payment is not received subsequent to this notification, the next regular billing may effectuate the removal of the customer from the budget plan and reflect the appropriate amount due.

(g) A customer removed from the budget payment plan either at the customer's request or by the utility for nonpayment may not resubscribe to the budget plan for a period of 6 months.

(h) At the end of a customer's full 12-month budget plan period, if an underbilled or overbilled balance exists in the account, the account adjustments shall be as follows at the customer's option.

1. An underbilled balance may be charged to the account, or subject to a deferred payment agreement, or carried over to the next budget plan period.

2. An overbilled balance may be applied to the account, refunded, or carried over to the next budget plan period.

History: 1-2-56; r. and recr. (1), Register, August, 1976, No. 248, eff. 9-1-76; am. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79.

PSC 113.17 Adjustment of bills for metering inaccuracies. (1) Whenever a meter creeps or whenever a varhour meter or wathour meter installation, with or without pulsing devices and recording equipment, is found upon test to have an average error of more than 2% from 100%, or a demand metering installation more than 1.5% plus the errors allowed in section PSC 113.41 from 100%, a recalculation of bills for service shall be made for the period of inaccuracy. The recalculation

shall be made on the basis that the service meter should be 100% accurate with respect to the working test standard.

Note: (See PSC 113.435 Determination of average meter error.)

(2) (a) If the period of inaccuracy cannot be determined, it shall be assumed that the metering equipment has become inaccurate at a uniform rate since it was installed or last tested except as otherwise provided in (b) and (c) below.

(b) Recalculation of bills shall be on the basis of actual bills except that if the monthly consumption has been reasonably uniform, averaged less than 500 kW hrs. per month and involves no billings other than for kW hrs., the recalculation of bills may be based on the average monthly consumption and the inaccuracy may be assumed to have existed for a period equal to one-half the time elapsed since the meter was installed or since the last previous test, whichever is later.

(c) The error in registration due to "creep" shall be calculated by timing the rate of "creeping" and assuming that this creeping affected the registration of the meter for 25% of the time since the last test or since the meter was installed.

(d) When the average error cannot be determined by test because of failure of part or all of the metering equipment, it shall be permissible to use the registration of check-metering installations, if any, or to estimate the quantity of energy consumed based on available data.

(3) 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. 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 demand made within 3 months thereafter refund the amount due.

(4) If the recalculated bills indicate that more than \$10 is due, the utility may bill the customer for the amount due. For residential customers the period of backbilling shall not exceed 24 months unless there is evidence of fraud or deception.

(5) A classified record shall be kept of the number and amount of refunds and charges made because of inaccurate meters, misapplication of rates, and erroneous billing. The record for a calendar year shall be submitted to the commission by April 1 of the following year.

History: 1-2-56; am. (5), Register, October, 1965, No. 118, eff. 11-1-65; am. Register, February, 1978, No. 266, eff. 3-1-78.

PSC 113.18 Billings for grounds. Subject to the utility's rules setting forth the method of determining a reduced rate herein authorized, if an accidental ground is found on a customer's wiring or equipment, the utility may estimate the kilowatt-hours so lost and bill for them at a reduced rate not less than the generated or purchase cost of the energy, but no such adjustment shall be made for energy supplied after the customer has been notified and has had an opportunity to correct the condition. Any demand (kilowatt) caused by an accidental ground may be billed at a rate lower than that filed for the class of service involved. The utility shall notify the customer of the ground whenever it is found or suspected.

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PART IV
UTILITY RECORDS AND INTERRUPTIONS
OF SERVICE

(See also sections PSC 113.29, 113.42, 113.43 and 113.45)

PSC 113.19 Employes authorized to enter customers' premises. The utility shall keep a record of employes authorized pursuant to s. 196.171, Stats., to enter customers' premises.

PSC 113.20 Maps and diagrams. Each utility shall have record systems (maps, records, diagrams, drawings or computer display systems) showing the location of its property, in sufficient detail so that the adequacy of service to existing customers may be checked and facilities located.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, February, 1978, No. 266, eff. 3-1-78.

PSC 113.21 Customers' complaints. Each utility shall investigate and keep a record of complaints received by it from its customers in regard to safety, service, or rates, and the operation of its system. The record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and nature of the complaint, and its disposition and the date thereof. Each utility also shall document all contacts and action relative to deferred payment agreements and disputes.

History: 1-2-56; am. Register, March, 1979, No. 279, eff. 4-1-79.

PSC 113.22 Interruptions of service. (1) Each utility shall keep a record of all interruptions to service affecting the entire distribution system of any single community or an important division of a community, and include in such record the location, date and time of interruption, the duration, the approximate number of customers affected, the circuit or circuits involved, and, when known, the cause of each interruption.

(2) When complete distribution systems or portions of communities have service furnished from unattended stations, these records shall be kept to the extent practicable. The record of unattended stations shall show interruptions which require attention to restore service, with the estimated time of interruption. Breaker or fuse operations affecting service should also be indicated even though duration of interruption may not be known.

(3) Each utility shall notify the commission of any event described in (a), (b), (c), (d) or (e) involving bulk power supply facilities (any generating unit or electric facilities operating at a nominal voltage of 69 kV or higher):

(a) Any interruption or loss of service to customers for 15 minutes or more to aggregate firm loads in excess of 200,000 kW. Such notification shall be made by telephone as soon as practicable without unduly interfering with service restoration and, in any event, within one hour after beginning of the interruption. A confirming written report shall be submitted within 2 weeks.

(b) Any interruption or loss of service to customers for 15 minutes or more to aggregate firm loads exceeding the lesser of 100,000 kW or half of the current annual system peak load and not required to be reported under (a). Such notification shall be made by telephone no later than

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the beginning of the commission's next regular work day after the interruption occurred. A confirming written report shall be submitted within 2 weeks.

(c) Any decision to issue a public request for reduction in use of electricity. Notification of such decision shall be made by telephone at the time of issuing such request. A confirming written report shall be submitted within 2 weeks.

(d) Any action to reduce firm customer loads by reduction of voltage for reasons of maintaining adequacy of bulk electric power supply. Notification of such action shall be made by telephone at the time of taking such action. A confirming written report shall be submitted within 2 weeks.

(e) Any action to reduce firm customer loads by manual switching, operation of automatic load shedding devices, or any other means for