GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS
FOR GAS SERVICE
BILLING AND PAYING FOR SERVICE

SECTION 7

7.01 MONTHLY BILLS: Bills for gas service will be rendered at least monthly and for the beginning and termination of service. The term "month" for billing purposes means the period between any two consecutive regular readings by Company of the meters at Customer's premises. Such readings will be taken as nearly as may be practicable every 30 days. Bills to non-residential Customers may, for good cause, be rendered weekly if the anticipated monthly bill exceeds $5,000.00 or daily if the anticipated monthly bill exceeds $20,000.00 for a period not to exceed 1 month. Intervals other than monthly shall not be applied to a Customer's account after the initial month provided above, without an exemption from the Utilities Board of the Iowa Department of Commerce. A petition for exemption must include sufficient information to establish good cause for the exemption. If the Board denies an exemption, or if no exemption is sought with respect to a Customer after the initial month, that Customer's bill shall be rendered monthly for the next 12 months, unless prior approval is received from the Utilities Board for a shorter interval. [199--19.3(7)]

7.02 COMPUTATION OF BILLS: In computing bills where the rate schedule exhibits the charges on a daily per therm (100,000 BTU) basis, such rates shall be multiplied by the number of days between and included in the reading period. This daily billing method automatically provides for prorating for any discrepancy in the meter-reading period from a normal month.

7.02A Any cost of gas adjustment, monthly minimum charge, and demand charge, if appropriate, provided for under the applicable rate schedule, shall be billed on a monthly basis.

7.03 ESTIMATED BILL: If Company is unable to read a meter after reasonable effort, Customer will be billed an estimated usage based on the best available information. Only in unusual cases or when approval is obtained from Customer shall more than three consecutive estimated bills be rendered. [199--19.3(8)]

7.04 BILL FORMS: For informational purposes, Company's billing forms used for normal Customer billing are included in Section 14.

7.05 BILLING ACCURACY: Company will exercise all reasonable diligence to assure accurate computation of all bills for gas service.
7.06 COMPLAINT-DISPUTED BILLING: If Customer gives notice to Company's office prior to the time that payment is due that the correctness of the bill is disputed, with reasons therefore, Company will investigate the complaint. Customer shall pay the undisputed portion in order to avoid disconnection for up to 45 days after the rendering of the bill, which shall be extended up to 60 days if requested of the Company by the Utilities Division of the Department of Commerce in the event Customer files a written complaint with the Utilities Division.

7.07 MAILING BILLS: Normally bills will be sent by mail; however, the non-receipt of a bill by Customer shall not release or diminish the obligation of Customer with respect to full payment thereof, including penalties, if any.

7.08 TERMS OF PAYMENT: The net amount of any bill for service is due and payable by the Customer when rendered. Spouses are jointly and severally liable for payment of bills, except in the case where one spouse has specifically notified the Company in writing that they intend to contract separately for utility service. Acceptable instances for a spouse to separately contract for residential service shall be limited to legal separations and pending or final divorces. In the case of residential Customers, all adults who have signed the lease or purchase agreement shall be jointly and severally liable for payment of bills. Bills for gas service may be paid at the office of Company, or to its duly authorized agents, during regular business hours or payment may be mailed in the self-addressed envelope provided by Company. Any unpaid bill shall become delinquent not less than 20 days after rendition. Failure of Customer to pay any amount due Company under Customer's service agreement or application for service in the full amount before the 21st day after rendition, shall constitute a default by Customer. [199--19.4(11)]

7.08A Bills for Customers on more frequent billing intervals under paragraph 7.01 may not be considered delinquent less than 5 days from the date of rendering. However, a late payment charge may not be assessed if payment is received within 20 days of the date the bill is rendered. [199--19.4(11)]

7.09 MAILING PAYMENT: Customers may mail payments in the enclosed properly addressed envelope provided by Company; however, payment shall not be considered as being made until receipt by Company.

7.10 LATE PAYMENT CHARGE: As to any delinquent bill (one which is unpaid after the due date shown thereon), Company shall add a late payment charge to cover its costs of collection. Such late payment charge shall be one and one-half percent per month of the past due amount and Customer shall then pay the gross amount of such a bill. [199--19.4(11)]
7.10 LATE PAYMENT CHARGE (Continued)

7.10A If the Customer makes a partial payment in a timely manner, and does not designate the service or product being paid for, the payment shall be credited pro rata between the bill for utility services and related taxes. [199–19.4(11)]

7.10B Each Customer is given complete forgiveness for one late payment charge at least once in each calendar year. On one monthly bill in each period of eligibility, the Company will accept the net amount of such bill as full payment for such month after expiration of the net payment period. Customer will receive written notification that the eligibility has been used. [199–19.4(11)]

7.10C Late payment charges will not be assessed on non-sufficient funds (NSF) charges, reconnect charges, and charges or balances on billings issued for a finaled account.

7.10 COLLECTION PROCEDURE: If the utility service bill is not paid on or before the due date shown thereon, a disconnect notice will be rendered to Customer in accordance with Paragraph 4.17 of these General Rules and Regulations. No Customer will be disconnected without having been sent the disconnect notice or having a disconnect notice posted at the service premises.

A charge may be made by Company to cover its cost of posting a disconnect notice at Customer’s premises in accordance with Paragraph 4.17 of the General Rules & Regulations. The posting charge shall be $26.00.

7.11A Whenever the utility service bill has been paid by a check not honored by the Customer’s bank, such returned check will bear an additional charge of $15.00 to help defray Company's additional expense.

7.11 RECONNECTION CHARGE: If gas service is disconnected for violation of any provision of Customer's service agreement or in accordance with Company's General Rules and Regulations concerning disconnection of service, a charge may be made by Company to cover its cost of disconnecting and reconnecting Customer's facilities before gas service will be resumed. The Customer shall make payment or arrangement for payment of any delinquent bills in addition to any reconnect charge, and shall have complied with the credit regulations of Company prior to the reconnection of such service.

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By: James P. Maher, Manager - Regulatory Pricing, Iowa & Minnesota
7.12 RECONNECTION CHARGE: (continued)

7.12A The reconnect charge shall be $56.00 for reconnections between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and $123.00 will be charged for after hours, holidays and weekends.

7.13 LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN: If Customer desires to make budget or level payment type payments on a monthly basis, Company will, at Customer's request, allow for such arrangements. Any payments so received shall be accepted by Company and credited to Customer's account. The equal payment required for Customer periodically shall be determined by Company, and any adjustment necessary to correct an over-payment or under-payment by Customer shall be made at least once each calendar year.

7.13A The Level Payment Plan is available to any residential or other Customer whose consumption is less than 250 therms per month. At the request of any such Customer the Company will submit: [199--19.4(11)]

7.13A(1) An estimate of the aggregate amount of the bills for gas service to be rendered to the Customer during the period beginning with the month of the Customer's selection and ending 12 months later.

7.13A(2) A statement of the amount of the 12 equal monthly installments to be paid by the Customer during such period which will aggregate the total estimated amount. The Customer shall be entitled to receive gas service during such period, by paying the installments if the Customer shall agree:

7.13A(2)a To pay each monthly installment on or before the due date of the bill for such month.

7.13A(2)b That the furnishing by the Company of such estimate shall not be construed as a guaranty or assurance that the total charge will not exceed the estimate.

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7.10 LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN: (continued)

7.13A(2)c That failure to pay an installment on or before its due date shall be cause for cancellation by the Company of the Level Payment Plan with respect to the Customer. A delinquency in payment shall be subject to a late payment charge on the level payment amount. If the account balance is a debit, a delinquency in payment shall be subject to the same procedures as other accounts for collection or cut-off. If the account balance is a credit, the level payment plan shall terminate after not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days of delinquency.

7.13A(2)d That the estimate shall apply only to the premises then occupied by the Customer; however, if the Customer vacates such premises during the period covered by such estimate, the Level Payment Plan with respect to the Customer shall immediately terminate and any amount or amounts payable by or to the Customer on account of services rendered during the period covered by the Level Payment Plan shall be billed or credited to the Customer.

7.13A(2)e The Level Payment Plan may be recomputed on each anniversary date, when requested by the Customer, or whenever price, consumption, alone or in combination, result in a new estimate differing by 10% or more than that in use. When a Customer's payment level is recomputed, the Customer shall be notified of the revised payment amount and the reason for the change. The notice shall be served not less than 30 days prior to the date of delinquency for the first revised payment. The notice may accompany the bill prior to the bill affected by the revised payment amount.
7.13 LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN: (continued)

7.13A(3) The level payment account balance on the anniversary date shall be carried forward and added to the estimated charges for service during the next year. This total will be the basis for computing the next year's periodic billing interval level payment plan. The anniversary date account balance shall not carry forward an unpaid level payment bill.

7.13A(3)a Conversely, if the aggregate of the monthly installments paid by the Customer for the Plan Period exceeds the aggregate of the actual charges for the gas taken during such period, the Customer shall be given the option of applying any credit to payments of subsequent months level payment amounts due or obtaining a refund of any credit in excess of $10.00.

7.13A(4) The Level Payment Plan shall continue from year to year unless canceled by either party. A Customer may request termination of the Plan (or withdrawal from the Plan) at any time.

7.14 SELECTION OF DELINQUENT DATE: Any Customer, except tax-levying bodies, able to provide reasonable rationale as to why a special payment due date is necessary, may be placed on a selected payment due date for payment of the net bill amount. [199--19.4(11)]

7.14A The date of delinquency for all residential Customers or other Customers whose consumption is less than 250 therms per month shall be changeable for cause in writing; such as, but not limited to, 15 days from approximate date each month upon which income is received by the person responsible for payment. In no case however, shall the Company be required to delay the date of delinquency more than 30 days beyond the date of preparation of the previous bill. [199--19.4(11)]

7.14A(1) Customers who levy taxes may also receive a special payment due date. Governmental bodies and school districts, if their approval process runs into conflict with the normal payment-due date, may choose a special payment-due date.
7.15 SPECIAL BILLING PROCEDURES:

7.15A Meter Reading - Readings of all meters used for determining charges and billings to Customers shall be scheduled monthly or for the beginning or termination of service. The Company may permit the customer to supply the meter readings by telephone or on a form supplied by the Company.

7.15B Final Billing - Final bills rendered upon the vacating of premises or those rendered to persons discontinuing service are due upon presentation.

7.16 ADJUSTMENT FOR METERING ERROR: An adjustment to bills for service for a period of inaccuracy shall be made in the case of over-registration or under-registration of more than 2 percent. The amount of the adjustment shall be calculated on the basis that the metering equipment shall be 100% accurate with respect to the testing equipment used to make the test. If the date when the error in registration began can be determined, such date shall be the starting point for determination of the amount of the adjustment, except that adjustments due to slow meters shall be limited to the preceding six-month period. If the date when the error in registration began cannot be determined, it shall be assumed that the error existed for a period equal to one-half of the time elapsed since the meter was installed, or one-half of the time elapsed since the last previous test, as the case may be. Adjustments due to slow meters shall be limited to the preceding six months, except that a longer period may be authorized by the Board. Recalculation of bills shall be on the basis of actual monthly consumption. [199--19.4(13)]

7.16A 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 the gas consumed, based on available data. Customer will be advised of the failure and of the basis for the estimate of the quantity billed.

7.17 ADJUSTMENT FOR RATE MISAPPLICATION: When Customer has been overcharged as a result of incorrect meter readings, incorrect application of the appropriate rate schedule, the amount of the overcharge shall be adjusted, refunded or credited to Customer's account. [199--19.4(13)d]

7.17A When Customer has been undercharged as a result of incorrect meter readings, incorrect application of the rate schedule, incorrect connection of the meter, or other similar reasons, the amount of undercharge may be billed to Customer. The maximum bill will not exceed the billing for like charges in the 12 months preceding discovery of the error unless otherwise ordered by the Board. [199--19.4(13)e]

7.17B The time period for which the Company will adjust, refund, or credit the Customer’s bill shall not exceed five years unless otherwise ordered by the Board. [199--19.4(13)d,e]
7.18 BACK BILLING: If an adjustment for billing computed in accordance with Paragraph 7.16 hereof results in an amount due Company of at least $100.00, Company will bill Customer for the amount due no later than 6 months following the date of the meter installation test. [199--19.4(13)b]

7.19 REFUNDS: If an adjustment to billing computed in accordance with Paragraph 7.16 hereof results in a refund of $5.00 or more due an existing Customer or $10.00 or more to a person no longer a Customer of Company, the full amount of the calculated difference between the amount paid and the recalculated amount shall be refunded. Refunds shall be made in the form of credits at Company's option, to existing Customers and so indicated on the bill. Refunds shall be made to the 2 most recent Customers who received service through the metering installation during the time the error existed. In the case of a previous Customer who is no longer a Customer of Company, notice of the amount subject to refund shall be mailed to such previous Customer at the last known address and upon demand of customer, within 3 months thereafter, the utility shall issue a refund. Refunds shall be completed within 6 months following the date of the metering installation test. [199--19.4(13)a(3)]

7.20 ADJUSTMENT FOR WASTAGE OF GAS: When gas has been metered and then wasted without the knowledge of the Customer by inadvertent venting or similar circumstances, the Customer shall be billed for only one-half of the quantity wasted, which shall be determined from the best available information.

7.21 SUMMARY BILLING: Summary billing is available to customers with five or more non-seasonal accounts (with a maximum of 100 per summary account) and good credit history. An “Application for Summary Billing” shall be completed for all summary billing requests. All individual meter accounts that are part of the summary billing shall be read on their regular meter route schedules with their bill transferred to the summary account. The summary account will issue the summary bill when the last individual account of the summary billing is regularly billed. A due date 20 days from the last individual account transferred to the summary account shall apply. The summary billed customer shall be required to pay the summary account balance in full each month. If there is an error with an individual account within summary account, the summary account shall be paid in full and any necessary adjustments will be made to the next month’s summary bill. Summary billing accounts and the individual accounts in the summary account shall not be on budget billing, require a special due date, or be paid by EZ-PAY electronic payment program.