

SECTION VI - BILLING AND PAYMENT

1. Billing Periods - Time and Place for Payment of Bills

Bills ordinarily are rendered at monthly intervals. Non-receipt of bills by the customer does not release or diminish the obligation of the customer with respect to payment thereof.

The word "month" as it pertains to the supply of service shall mean the period of approximately thirty (30) days between meter readings, as fixed and made by the Company. Meters are ordinarily read monthly, however, meters may be read more or less frequently in such instances as, when special readings are required, at the customer's request, or when the Company has been unable to obtain readings. If the Company has been unable to obtain a meter reading for a period of twelve (12) consecutive months, the Company may, at its option, refuse or disconnect service to the premises in accordance with Section I Paragraph 3, Company's Right to Refuse or Disconnect Service, of these ELECTRIC SERVICE REGULATIONS. The Company shall have the right to establish billing districts for the purpose of reading meters and rendering bills to customers at various dates. A change or revision of any rate schedule shall be applicable to all bills on which the final monthly meter reading was taken on or after the effective date of such change or revision, except as otherwise ordered by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

Where the Company is unable to obtain a meter reading, estimated bills, so identified, will be rendered for an estimated amount to permit normal monthly payment, such payments to be credited to the next bill rendered.

When the Company is requested by the customer to terminate service, or when the Company discovers a customer has terminated service by moving from the premises served, or when the Company disconnects service due to nonpayment of the account or for other reasons, the Company will render a final bill addressed to the customer's forwarding address, if known, or to the last known address, for the entire balance of the account, including a bill calculation from the last read date. This calculation shall be based on an actual meter reading if the meter has not been read in the immediately preceding sixty days and access to the meter is provided. If the meter has been read within the immediately preceding thirty-three to sixty days, the Company shall inform the customer, when the customer contacts it, of the option to have an actual meter read, at no charge to the customer. If the meter has been read within the immediately preceding one to thirty-two days, the Company may estimate the customer's consumption. The final bill may contain calculations from special meter readings taken for combination gas and electric and gas only accounts and identified estimated meter readings being used for non-heating electric only accounts. Unpaid balances of previously rendered final bills may be transferred to the new account and included on initial or subsequent bills.

When the customer begins use of service, an initial bill is normally rendered for the period from the initial date of service to the first regular meter reading date for the billing district in which the premises is located, this period normally being less than one month, except that the bill is suspended if the period is less than eight (8) days.

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SECTION VI - BILLING AND PAYMENT (Contd.)

All of the Company's rate schedules are established on a monthly basis which would include monthly billing periods in accordance with the Company's meter reading schedule. A normal meter reading period consists of the number of days between scheduled reads, that is, between twenty-seven (27) and thirty-five (35) days, plus or minus three (3) working days. Where billing amounts reflects a period of more than one (1) month, those amounts shall be prorated based on the normal scheduled meter reading dates and divided into increments of one (1) month or less. If the increments represents less than one (1) month, the appropriate billing components will be billed as a prorated portion of the period defined by the normal scheduled meter reading dates.

Bills are due on the date indicated thereon as being the last day for payment of the net amount, and the due date shall not be less than twenty-one (21) days after the mailing of the bill. Bills are payable only at the Company's offices or authorized agencies for collection. If a partial payment is made, the amount will be applied to items of indebtedness in the same order as they have accrued, starting with regulated charges followed by non-regulated charges.

2. Selection of Rate Schedule

When a prospective customer makes application for service, the Company will, upon request, assist in the selection of the Rate Schedule most favorable to customer for the service requested. The selection will be based on the prospective customer's statement as to the class of service desired, the amount and manner of use, and any other pertinent information.

A customer being billed under one of two or more optional rate schedules applicable to the customer's class of service may elect to be billed on any other applicable rate schedule by notifying the Company in writing, and the Company will bill the customer under such elected schedule from and after the date of the next meter reading. However, a customer having made such a change of rate schedule may not make another such change within the next twelve months, or as otherwise provided elsewhere in the applicable rate schedules.

3. Temporary Discontinuance of Service

If any residential customer notifies the Company in writing to discontinue service, the Company will make no minimum charge for any full meter reading period during the period of discontinuance; provided however, that the Company may charge and collect a sum of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) prior to reconnecting a service which was discontinued at the customer's request within the preceding twelve months.

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4. Availability of Budget Billing

The Company has available to its customers a "Budget Billing Plan" which minimizes billing amount fluctuations over a twelve month period. The Company may exercise discretion, as permitted by Rule 4901:1-18-4 (C) of the Ohio Administrative Code, to restrict the availability of such a plan to customers who:

- (a) Have no arrearages (other than amounts already incorporated in a previously agreed upon extended payment plan); and
- (b) Are not in default on a previously agreed upon extended payment plan.

5. Bill Adjustment

Overcharges will be refunded to the customer for the entire period of inaccurate billing if that period is discernible. If the period of inaccurate billing is not discernible, the shortest period encompassing the elapsed time since the customer's "on" date, the installation date of the inaccurate meter, or 365 days will form the basis for determining the refund amount.

Undercharges may be billed and the customer shall pay the charges for the entire period of inaccurate billing when that period is discernible, except undercharges billed to residential customers shall be limited to a maximum of 365 days prior to the date the billing is corrected. There will be no maximum limit of time for cases involving tampering or theft of utility service, or where a physical act of a customer or its agent causes inaccurate or no recording of the meter reading, or inaccurate or no measurement of the electricity rendered.

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