

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter, on the Commission’s own motion,)
to commence a proceeding to consider amendments)
to the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices)
for Electric and Gas Residential Service.)
_____)

Case No. U-12565

At the August 17, 2000 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. John G. Strand, Chairman
Hon. David A. Svanda, Commissioner
Hon. Robert B. Nelson, Commissioner

ORDER COMMENCING RULEMAKING PROCEEDING

On March 17, 2000, the most recent amendments to the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Service, R 460.2101 et seq., (billing rules) became effective. These amendments, which were the subject of a request for rulemaking submitted to the Commission by Michigan Consolidated Gas Company and the Michigan Electric and Gas Association, contained a number of revisions that were specifically designed to reduce utilities’ uncollectible expenses.

It has come to the attention of the Commission that on March 10, 2000, Wisconsin Public Service Corporation, Upper Peninsula Power Company, Northern States Power-Wisconsin, Wisconsin Electric Power Company, and Indiana Michigan Power Company filed a claim of appeal in the Michigan Court of Appeals to challenge the adoption of the March 17, 2000

amendments. Accordingly, the Commission finds that it is appropriate to reconsider the recent revisions to the billing rules and to allow interested persons to suggest amendments in the nature of revisions, additions, or deletions to the billing rules that were amended in Case No. U-11397.

On May 9, 2000, the Office of Regulatory Reform approved the Commission's request to initiate this rulemaking. Attached to this order as Exhibit A are the proposed revisions to the billing rules, which will serve as the starting point for this rulemaking proceeding.

The Commission encourages interested parties to become involved in this rulemaking proceeding. Attached to this order as Exhibit B is a notice of public hearing regarding the proposed revision of the billing rules that has been scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on November 14, 2000 in the offices of the Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing, Michigan. In addition, any person may submit comments regarding the proposed revisions to the billing rules. Written comments, which should reference the case number of this proceeding, must be received no later than December 1, 2000 in order to be considered. The proposed effective date of the revised billing rules is June 1, 2001.

The Commission FINDS that:

- a. Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; MSA 22.151 et seq.; 1909 PA 300, as amended, MCL 462.2 et seq.; MSA 22.21 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.51 et seq.; MSA 22.1 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; MSA 22.13(1) et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; MSA 3.560(101) et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1992 AACRS, R 460.17101 et seq.
- b. A hearing should be held on the adoption of revisions to the billing rules.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

A. A notice of hearing regarding the proposed revisions to the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Service shall be published in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969.

B. A public hearing regarding the proposed rule revisions shall be held at 9:00 a.m. on November 14, 2000 in the offices of the Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, Lansing, Michigan. A notice of hearing is attached as Exhibit B to this order.

C. The public hearing will be legislative in nature and any person may present data, views, questions, and arguments regarding the proposed rule revisions. Statements may be limited in duration by the presiding officer in order to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to participate in the proceedings. If necessary, the proceeding will continue on such dates as the presiding officer may schedule until all persons have had a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

D. Any person may file written comments, suggestions, data, views, questions, arguments, and modifications concerning the proposed rule revisions. An original and 15 copies may be filed at the public hearing or with the Office of the Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, 6545 Mercantile Way, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909. All written comments must be filed no later than December 1, 2000.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

/s/ John G. Strand
Chairman

(S E A L)

/s/ David A. Svanda
Commissioner

/s/ Robert B. Nelson
Commissioner, abstaining.

By its action of August 17, 2000.

/s/ Dorothy Wideman
Its Executive Secretary

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner, abstaining.

By its action of August 17, 2000.

Its Executive Secretary

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Suggested Minute:

“Adopt and issue order dated August 17, 2000 commencing a proceeding to amend the Consumer Standards and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Service, as set forth in the order.”