

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
KEN HECHLER  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #5

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**FILED**  
Oct 11 9 39 AM '95

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ADOPTION OF A PROCEDURAL OR INTERPRETIVE RULE  
OR A LEGISLATIVE RULE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW**

AGENCY: Public Service Commission TITLE NUMBER: 150

CITE AUTHORITY: W.Va. Code §§ 24-1-1, 24-1-7, 24-2-1, 24-2-2, 16-13A-9 and 18-18-23

RULE TYPE: PROCEDURAL \_\_\_\_\_ INTERPRETIVE \_\_\_\_\_

EXEMPT LEGISLATIVE RULE X  
CITE STATUTE(S) GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

W.Va. Code §24-1-7

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X, NO \_\_\_\_\_

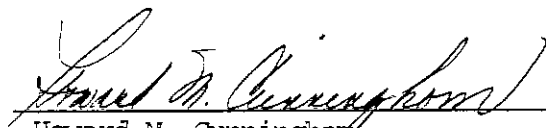
IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 7

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Rules and Regulations for the  
Government of Water Utilities

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE RULE IS HEREBY ADOPTED AND FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THE  
EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS RULE IS December 10, 1995

  
Howard M. Cunningham  
Executive Secretary

P.S.C.  
 Leg. Rule/Adm. Reg. 24-1  
 Series VII

IN THE MATTER OF amendment to the Commission's  
Rules and Regulations for the Government of  
Water Utilities.

FISCAL NOTE

This is a fiscal note issued pursuant to W.Va. Code §§29A-3-4, 5, 9 and §24-1-7 relating to the Commission's General Order No. 188.12.

I. OBJECTIVES OF THE RULE

The objective of this rulemaking is to amend Rule 4.1.8., 4.2., 4.3., 4.4. and 5.5. of the Commission's Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities to modify the service extension rules. The amendment also change the mechanism for calculating interest which utilities pay on customer deposits. They make minor changes to the rules regarding billing requirements and private fire protection. Finally, they require utilities to have a leak adjustment policy.

II. COSTS OF IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED RULE

There will be no significant implementation cost relating to the amendments to the rule for the State of West Virginia.

III. THE EFFECT THIS MEASURE WILL HAVE ON THE COSTS OR REVENUES OF STATE GOVERNMENT (Information required by fiscal notes for either House of the Legislature.)

None.

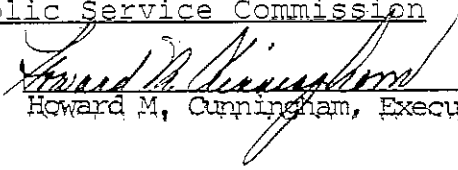
IV. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE RULE ON THE STATE OR ITS RESIDENTS

The rule will modify the service extension rules. It will allow utilities to pay a more market based interest rate on customer deposits. It also requires a leak adjustment policy for water utilities and makes minor changes to the rules regarding billing requirements and private fire protection. It will have minimal economic impact on the State as a whole. It may allow the further extension of public water service in unserved areas by modifying extension rules.

DATE: October 11, 1995

AGENCY: Public Service Commission

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

  
 Howard M. Cunningham, Executive Secretary

### SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES

The amendments to the Commission's water rule modify the service extension rules. The amendments also change the method of calculation of interest which utilities pay on customer deposits. They also modify the private fire protection rule and billing requirements. Finally, they require utilities to have a written policy on leak adjustments.

FILED

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9/11/95

TITLE 150  
LEGISLATIVE RULE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

OCT 11 9 40 AM '95

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

SERIES 7  
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR  
THE GOVERNMENT OF  
WATER UTILITIES

§150-7-1. General.

1.1. Scope -- These rules govern the operation and service of water utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission pursuant to West Virginia Code §24-2-1.

1.2. Authority -- West Virginia Code §24-1-1, §24-1-7, §24-2-1, and §24-2-2.

1.3. Filing Date -- October 11, 1995

1.4. Effective Date -- December 10, 1995

1.5. Authorization of rules.

1.5.1. These rules are intended to define good practices, which can normally be expected.

1.5.2. They are intended to insure adequate service and to prevent unfair charges to the public, and to protect the utilities from unreasonable demands.

1.5.3. The adoption of these rules and regulations shall in no way preclude the Public Service Commission from altering or amending them in whole or in part, or from requiring any other or additional service, equipment, facility, or standard either upon complaint or upon its own motion, or upon the application of any utility.

1.5.4. These regulations shall not relieve in any way a utility from any of its duties under the laws of this State.

1.6. Application of rules.

1.6.1. These rules apply to public utilities as defined in Rule 1.7.

1.6.2. If hardship results from the application of any rule herein prescribed, or if unusual difficulty is involved

in immediately complying with any rule, application may be made to the Commission for the modification of the rule or for temporary or permanent exemption from its provisions; **Provided**, That no utility shall submit application for such modification or exemption without submitting therewith a full and complete justification for such action.

#### 1.7. Definitions.

1.7.1. "Commission" -- Whenever in these rules and regulations the words "Commission" or "Public Service Commission" occur, such word or words shall, unless a different intent clearly appears from the context, be taken to mean the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

1.7.2. A "Governmental Unit" -- Is any municipality or other political sub-division or agency of the State of West Virginia or the Federal Government.

1.7.3. "Distribution Main" -- Means water pipe owned, operated, or maintained by the utility which is used for the purpose of distribution of water from which service connections with customers are taken.

1.7.4. "Utility Service Pipe" -- Shall mean that portion of the service pipe between the distribution main and the curb cock or the inlet connection of the coppersetter when installed at or near the property line, right-of-way, and/or easement line, installed at the cost and expense of the utility.

1.7.5. "Customer's Service Pipe" -- Shall be that portion of the service pipe from the end of the utility's service pipe to the structure or premises supplied, installed at the cost and expense of the customer.

1.7.6. A "Private Fire Service Connection" -- Is one to which is attached fixtures from which water is taken only for the extinguishment of fire.

1.7.7. A "Temporary Service Connection" -- Is one which is installed for the temporary use of water: **Provided**, That the customer's premises is located on a lot having a curb line abutting on that part of a street or public right-of-way in which there is located a distribution main of the utility extending for the total frontage of the lot on said street or right-of-way, unless otherwise agreed to by the utility.

1.7.8. "Public Utility" -- Except where a different meaning clearly appears from the context, the word or words

"utility" or "public utility" when used in these rules and regulations shall mean and include any person or persons, or association of persons, however associated, whether incorporated or not, including municipalities, engaged in the business of producing, furnishing, transporting, distributing or selling water for any purpose which is now or may hereafter be held to be a public service.

1.7.9. "Service Connection" -- The term "service connection" shall be defined to mean the utility's pipe and appurtenances which connect any water main in a public highway, street, alley, or private right-of-way with the inlet connection of a customer's service line at or near the property line.

1.7.10. "Standard Distribution Pressure" -- "Standard Distribution Pressure" shall be the distribution pressure established by the utility under the requirements of Rule 5.4.

**§150-7-2. Records, reports and other information to be supplied to the Commission.**

2.1. Records and reports.

2.1.1. Preservation of records -- All records required by these rules shall be preserved by the utility in accordance with the "Rules to Govern the Preservation of Records of Public Utilities and Licensees" as prescribed by The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) dated April, 1972, and adopted by the Commission in its General Order No. 117-C of September 25, 1972, and effective December 1, 1972, except, as they may be hereinafter modified.

2.1.2. Location of records -- Such records shall be kept at the office or offices of the utility, and shall be open at all reasonable hours for examination by the Commission or its representative, or by others authorized by the Commission.

2.1.3. Reports to Commission --

a. Each utility shall, at such times and in such form as the Commission may prescribe, report to the Commission the results of any test or tests required to be made or the information contained in any records required to be kept by the utility.

b. Each utility shall furnish to the Commission

any further information in its possession, respecting its rates, charges, or practices which may from time to time be required by the Commission, and without formal order of the Commission.

2.2. Filing of rate schedules.

2.2.1. Filing required -- No rules and regulations, or schedules of rates or charges, or modification of the same, shall be effective until filed with the Commission as provided by law.

2.2.2. Where filed -- Copies of all schedules of rates and other charges, and copies of all rules and regulations, covering the relation of customer and utility, shall be filed by every utility in the office of the Secretary of the Commission.

2.2.3. Manner of filing -- Tariffs containing all the rates, rules and regulations of each utility shall be filed in the manner prescribed by the Commission in the "Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Construction and Filing of Tariffs of Public Utilities and Common Carriers by Motor Vehicles," effective July 31, 1983, and any amendments or modifications thereafter made by the Commission.

2.2.4. Forms for filing -- The Commission will, upon application, furnish proper blanks to be used for the filing of tariffs or tariff sheets and any changes thereof and additions thereto.

2.2.5. Utility's special rules -- A utility desiring to establish any rule or requirement supplementing the rules of the Commission shall first make application to/or file tariff sheets with the Commission for authority for such rule or rules, clearly stating in its application the reason for such establishment and substantiating data.

2.3. Financial and statistical report.

2.3.1. Every utility shall file annually a financial and statistical report upon forms to be furnished by the Commission. Said report shall be based upon the accounts set up in conformity with the Commission's order and rule as set out in Rule 2.4. of these rules and regulations. This report shall be filed on or before March 31st of each year, or at such date as the Commission may direct.

2.3.2. Each utility shall file, periodically, water statistical reports upon Forms ED-2 to be furnished by the Utilities Division of the Commission's Staff. This report shall

be filed not later than forty-five (45) days following the period covered by the report.

#### 2.4. Uniform system of accounts.

All water utilities shall maintain the Uniform System of Accounts as promulgated in 1973 by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners for Class A and B Water Utilities and Class C and D Water Utilities.

Observance of the system of accounts applicable to the water utility by appropriate class is obligatory upon all persons having direct charge of the books and accounts of the utility. For the purpose of securing uniformity in the applications of this system all questions of doubtful interpretation of accounting rules are to be submitted to the Commission for consideration and decision.

#### 2.5. Maps and records.

Each utility shall keep on file suitable maps, plans and records showing the entire layout of every pumping station, filter plant, reservoir, transmission and distribution system, with the location, size and capacity of each plant, size of each transmission and distribution line, fire hydrant, valve and customer's service, reservoirs, tanks and other facilities used in the production and delivery of water. In general, where present plans of existing facilities are not entirely up to date, special surveys to locate any plant or facilities will not be required at once, but they must be updated as prescribed by the Commission. In the case of new construction or property acquired from others, the additions to such maps and records should be made by the end of the next calendar year following the year in which the construction is done or property acquired.

#### 2.6. Management audits.

##### 2.6.1. Scope --

To establish a procedure for examination of management practices and policies to determine whether the entity being audited is operating with efficiency and utilizing sound management practices. The purpose of a management audit is to disclose operating areas that are efficient or inefficient, to identify areas for improvement, and to form recommendations for changes. The results of a management audit and the response of the utility to the recommendations and implementation plans developed pursuant to a management audit may be a factor in determining just and reasonable rates, as set out herein.

2.6.2. Types of management audits -- The following types of management audit, which vary in scope, may be directed and utilized by the Commission:

a. Comprehensive -- An investigation characterized by an extensive, detailed analysis of a utility's management and operations.

b. Reconnaissance -- A broad review, similar in scope to a comprehensive audit, but in less detail. The objective of this type of audit is to identify specific areas for more intensive investigation based upon the magnitude of the problem identified or the potential benefits to be derived.

c. Focused -- An in-depth investigation of one or several specific areas of a utility's management and operations.

2.6.3. Frequency --

The Commission shall order a management audit of any utility under its jurisdiction whenever the Commission deems it necessary to investigate the operational efficiency of the utility. Such factors as the cost of the management audit and the potential benefits of such audit may be taken into consideration. The Commission may accept or request a management audit performed under the rules of another jurisdiction in satisfaction of this rule when that audit is of the scope contemplated by the Commission, conforms to the standards herein set forth and covers the utility's service functions in its West Virginia jurisdiction.

2.6.4. Conduct and control --

a. The Commission may choose to have the audit performed by its Staff or contracted to a qualified outside auditing firm. In the latter case, the Commission may supervise the selection process. If the management audit is to be conducted by an auditing firm, the Commission's order initiating the audit shall include provision for the development of the request for proposal (RFP), the consultant selection process and Staff's assistance and supervision during the audit.

b. The Commission may impose eligibility restrictions upon contractors relating to past, current and post-audit relationships with the utility.

c. The utility is expected to cooperate to the fullest extent with the performer of a Commission ordered

management audit. A responsible employee shall be appointed by the utility as its management audit coordinator, who shall be responsible to assist in the efficient performance of the management audit.

2.6.5. Costs --

It shall be the responsibility of the audited utility to pay for a contracted audit. The Commission shall include the reasonable cost of conducting the contracted management audit in the cost of service of the utility. The Commission may allow such costs to be recovered in the utility's next general rate case following completion of the audit, or the Commission may order such costs to be amortized over a reasonable period of years, considering the impact of these costs on both the utility and its customers.

2.6.6. Implementation of recommendations --

a. Draft report.

A. Upon completion of the audit a draft report shall be submitted to the utility for comments.

B. The auditor and Company representatives shall conduct a draft review meeting subsequent to the distribution of the draft review report.

b. Final report.

A. A final report shall be submitted to the Commission no later than thirty days after the submission of the draft report to the utility.

B. Within thirty days of the final submission of the management audit report, the utility shall file a document detailing its position on each audit recommendation. This document must state which recommendations are acceptable to the utility and the nature of the utility's disagreement with any recommendations.

c. The Commission may, after hearing, issue an order prescribing the recommendations which should be adopted by the utility.

d. The utility shall file detailed implementation plans for the Commission's review and approval within the time specified in the Commission's order prescribing which recommendations the utility should adopt. The utility shall not

deviate from an approved implementation plan without prior notice to the Commission which specifically states the utility's reasons for departing from the approved plan.

e. At the direction of the Commission, a follow-up audit may be performed to review the progress of the utility in implementing the approved plans and the results of previously performed management audits.

f. A management audit report and implementation plan adopted pursuant thereto and any follow-up audit may be used by parties in a general rate case subsequent to the management audit. Such audits and implementation plans may be a factor in the determination of just and reasonable rates if introduced as an exhibit and subjected to normal due process procedures.

g. The Commission may grant an extension of the time limits established in this section upon a showing of good cause for such extension.

### §150-7-3. Meter requirements.

#### 3.1. Utility to provide meters.

Unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, each utility shall provide and install at its own expense (except as provided in Rule 5.6.) and shall continue to own, maintain, and operate all equipment necessary for the regulation and measurement of water, in accordance with tariff or contract provisions, to its customers. Where additional meters are requested by the customer and are furnished by the utility for the convenience of the customer, a charge for such meters may be made.

#### 3.2. Location of meters.

3.2.1. Accessibility -- In the interest of safety and convenience to the customer, and as a measure of economical operation to the utility, it is required that all meters should be located at or near the property line: **Provided**, however, That when such location is impractical meters shall be placed outside of the customer's building as near as possible to the point where the utility's "Service Connection" joins the "Customer's Service Line": **Provided**, further, if neither of the foregoing requirements can be complied with on account of physical, economic, or climatic conditions, the meter may be placed within the building, preferably in the cellar, and when so placed within the building, the meter shall be so located that it will be easily accessible for reading, maintenance and protected from freezing and mechanical damage.

3.2.2. Meter grouping -- When a number of meters are grouped, every meter shall be tagged so as to indicate the particular customer served by it.

3.2.3. Remote meters -- When a meter is located inside a home or building, the utility may install a remote register or dial on the exterior of a home or building accessible for meter reading.

3.2.4. Meter setting installation -- Meter settings shall be installed in accordance with drawings submitted and approved by the Commission under Rule 5.6.4.

#### **§150-7-4. Customer relations.**

##### 4.1. Customer information.

4.1.1. Information as to service -- Each utility shall, upon request, give its customers such information and assistance as is reasonable, in order that customers may secure safe and efficient service.

4.1.2. Explanation of meter readings -- Each utility shall adopt some means of informing its customers as to the method of reading meters, either by a printed description on its bills, or by a notice to the effect that the method will be explained at the office of the utility upon request. It is recommended that an exhibition meter be kept on display in each sales office maintained by a utility.

4.1.3. Explanation of rates -- It shall be the duty of the utility to explain to the customer at the beginning of service, or whenever the customer shall request the utility to do so, the utility's rates applicable to the type of service furnished to the customer and all other classes of customers, and to assist him in obtaining the rate which is most advantageous to his requirement for service. The responsibility for the selection, however, must rest with the applicant. In the event that the customer's use of service is later such that an applicable rate schedule, other than the one initially selected, proves to be more favorable, the responsibility for requesting a change in rate schedule, consistent with the provisions of the service agreement, shall rest with the customer. The utility shall, on its periodic statements, annually inform its customers that, if they so request, it shall supply the customers with a copy of the utility's rate or rates applicable to the type of service to be furnished to them and to all other classes of customers with a concise written explanation of the rates, and an identification of any classes of customer whose rates are not

summarized.

4.1.4. Posting of law, rates, rules and regulations.

a. Every utility shall maintain in its office for inspection by the public the following:

A. A copy of the rates, rules and regulations of the utility, and of forms of contracts and applications applicable to the territory served from that office.

B. A copy of the Public Service Commission Law of this State.

C. A copy of these rules and regulations.

b. A suitable placard, in large type, shall be exhibited in a conspicuous location, giving information to customers that a copy of the law, the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission and the schedule of rates are kept for their inspection.

4.1.5. The following wording shall be added to the margin of the utility bill cards:

"This utility is regulated by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia."

4.1.6. Applications for water service.

a. All customers desiring water service must make written application at the office of the utility on printed forms provided therefor, setting forth in said application all purposes for which water will be used upon their premises. All users of service from a water public service district shall be required to designate on every application for service whether the applicant is a tenant or an owner of the premises to be served. If the applicant is a tenant, he shall state the name and address of the owner or owners of the premises to be served by the district.

b. Any change in the identity of the contracting customer at a premises will require a new application for water, and the utility may, after reasonable notice, discontinue water service until such new application has been made and accepted, but the former customer shall remain liable for water furnished to said premises until he has given notice in writing to the utility to discontinue water service.

c. No charge will be made for turning on the

water to new customers during regular working hours.

d. Accepted applications for water to be supplied to any premises shall constitute a right to the customer to take and receive a supply of water for said premises for the purposes specified in such application; (i.e. Domestic, Commercial, and Industrial) subject only to the fulfillment of the conditions of these rules and regulations by the customer.

e. In the event that a public service district providing sewer service owns and operates facilities within the same service territory as the publicly or privately owned water utility, city, incorporated town, other municipal corporation or other public service district providing water service to the area, then the water utility shall not deem an application to be complete until such time as the applicant provides proof by receipt from the sewer public service district that, where the applicant is legally required to do so, proper application for sewer service has been made and security deposit paid thereto. Upon receipt of said proof from the applicant, or upon a showing that the applicant is not legally required to apply for sewer service or pay a security deposit, the water utility shall notify the sewer public service district, in writing, the date upon which water service is scheduled to be turned on to the applicant. Said written notification to the sewer public service district shall be made within five (5) working days of the date that the application for water service is deemed complete.

#### 4.1.7. Special applications for water service.

a. Water for building, construction or other temporary purposes must be specifically applied for.

b. Connections for private fire service must be specifically applied for.

c. Where water is desired for only a short period of time, and not continuously throughout the year, such as for vacation homes or cottages, building purposes, street paving, cleaning property, filling tanks or other uses of this kind, an application shall be made as set forth in Rule 4.1.6., and payment made in accordance with the applicable schedule of rates and charges, in which case a suitable deposit shall be made.

d. Whenever a street service connection is made to the mains for temporary service or for temporary private fire service, the applicant shall bear the entire cost and expense of labor and material for tapping the main and installing the service pipe and meter and its removal, if required.

## 4.1.8. Private fire protection service.

a. Service connections for water to be taken for the extinguishment of fire shall be made only under the terms and conditions contained in the "Special Applications" for such service, a copy of which is on file in the utility's office. (See Rule 4.1.7.)

b. Application for private fire protection service will not be approved unless there is sufficient water volume and pressure available in the main and the premises to be supplied abuts the street wherein said main is located.

~~c. All applications for private fire protection service where public fire service exists shall be subject to the written approval of the Chief of the Fire Department having jurisdiction, who, by such approval, shall affirm that, in his opinion, the public fire protection will not be endangered by the proposed connection to be made for the applicant.~~

c. The utility shall consider the impact of private fire protection upon public fire protection. Before providing private fire protection, the utility shall affirm in writing that the private fire protection applied for will not endanger public fire protection. The utility shall retain the written affirmation in its records for at least twenty years.

d. The applicant shall furnish, attach and make a part of ~~his~~ the private fire protection application, three (3) complete sets of drawings approved by Insurance Services Office of W. Va., or another comparable agency approved by the utility, showing the pipes, valves, hydrants, tanks, openings, and appurtenances contemplated in the application. Such sketch must also show any other water supply system, and pipelines and appurtenances which may exist on the premises, and There shall be no connection between such other supply and pipes connected to the utility's mains.

e. ~~The customer agrees to~~ shall obtain in advance the approval of the utility for any change, alteration or addition in the fixtures, openings and uses specified in the application. The customer shall make its meter available to the utility at all reasonable times.

f. The utility shall determine the size and location of any connections made to its distribution mains for private fire protection service, and will, at the cost and expense of the customer, make the connection to its mains and install the service connection from the distribution main to a

point at or near the property line.

g. The extent of the rights of the private fire protection service customer is to receive, but only at times of fire on his premises, such supply of water as shall then be available. The utility shall not be considered in any manner an insurer of property or persons, or to have undertaken to extinguish fire or to protect any persons or property against loss or damage by fire or otherwise, and it shall be free and exempt from any and all claims for damages on account of any injury to property or persons by reason of fire, water, failure to supply water or pressure, or for any other cause whatsoever.

h. Unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between the applicant and the utility, service lines for private fire protection service shall be distinct and separate from the regular or general water service line. A private fire service connection is furnished for the sole purpose of supplying water for the extinguishment of fires, and the use of water from such a connection for any other purpose is absolutely forbidden.

i. Where one service pipe is used for both general and fire purposes, as provided for by written agreement between the applicant and utility, the entire service pipe on the applicant's premises will be installed and maintained by and at the cost and expense of the applicant the same as if it were solely a private fire protection service line. The utility may set minimum construction standards and specifications for the applicant's portion of the dual purpose service pipe, and may require that its construction be subject to inspection by the utility. Maintenance of the service line, from the main to the property line, will be the responsibility of the utility.

At the building to be served, the common service pipe shall separate into two service pipes. One service pipe shall be for private fire protection and the other for general water service. The utility will, at its cost and expense, install and maintain a water meter of appropriate size on the general water service pipe and the necessary piping and fitting for the meter setting. All dual purpose service lines must comply with all applicable Department of Health standards and regulations.

The utility will charge the applicant for general water service based on the consumption through and size of the water meter installed, in accordance with its schedule of rates for general water service. The utility shall, subject to Public Service Commission approval, charge the applicant for private

fire protection service in accordance with its schedule of rates for such service.

i. j. A gate valve with post indicator controlling the entire supply shall be placed at the curb or property line of the street in which the main is located or at such other points as may be approved by the utility, and shall be furnished and installed by and at the expense of the customer, and unless otherwise approved by the utility, said valve shall be installed in a valve pit or vault which shall also be furnished and installed at the expense of the customer.

k. j. Service lines supplying fire sprinkler systems only, must be protected by a minimum of two approved check valves. One of these check valves may be the alarm check provided as part of the sprinkler system. The other may be a detector check, double check valve assembly, or an approved single check valve. Specific requirements and/or installation procedure should be referred to the West Virginia Department of Health.

l. k. Under no circumstances will anti-freeze be permitted in the sprinkling systems unless a reduced pressure zone backflow preventer, approved by the utility or the West Virginia Department of Health, is provided at the point of connection in the anti-freeze system.

m. l. The entire private fire service system on the customer's premises shall be installed and maintained by and at the expense of customer and shall be subject to the inspection, test and approval of the utility before the service is made effective, and at such times thereafter as may be deemed necessary or appropriate by the utility.

n. m. Hydrants and other fixtures connected with a private fire service system may be sealed by the utility, and such seals may be broken only in case of fire or as specially permitted by the utility, and the customer shall immediately notify the utility of the breaking of any such seal.

o. n. Whenever a fire service system is to be tested, the customer shall notify the utility of such proposed test, designating the day and hour when same is to be made, so that, if desired, the company may have an inspector present during the test.

#### 4.2. Customer deposits.

##### 4.2.1. Security deposits --

a. ~~b.~~ Security deposits for public service districts -- All new applicants for service from a water public service district shall deposit a minimum of fifty dollars (\$50.00) with the district to secure the payment of service rates and charges in the event they become delinquent. The district shall not be bound to supply water until this condition is fulfilled. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, no reconnection or reinstatement of service may be made by the district until another minimum deposit of fifty dollars (\$50.00) has been remitted to the district. After the customer has paid bills for service for twelve (12) consecutive months the utility shall promptly and automatically refund the deposit plus the ~~higher of 5% or the prevailing passbook rate of interest as determined by~~ in accordance with 4.2.1.c. Calculation of the above twelve (12) months' period shall commence from the first regular payment or following the payment of a past due bill or bills. All security deposits shall be placed in an interest bearing account at a local federally insured financial institution. The district shall have a reasonable time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to read and remove meters and to ascertain that the obligations of the customer have been fully performed before being required to return any deposit in the case where there has not been an automatic refund.

b. ~~a.~~ Security deposits for utilities other than public service districts -- A utility, other than a public service district may require the applicant or customer to make a deposit with it initially, and from time to time, as a guarantee of the payment for water used. Such deposit shall not be more than one-twelfth (1/12) of the annual estimated charge for service to secure the utility from loss. The utility shall not be bound to supply water until these conditions are fulfilled and it may cut off the supply if the guarantee or increased guarantee is not given when required. After the customer has paid bills for service for twelve (12) consecutive months, the utility shall promptly and automatically refund the deposit plus accrued interest. Calculation of the above twelve (12) months' period shall commence from the first regular payment or following the payment of a past due bill or bills. Interest at the rate of ~~8% per annum will~~ as determined in accordance with 4.2.1.d., shall be paid from the date of deposit until refund date. The utility shall have a reasonable time, not to exceed thirty (30) days, to read and remove meters and to ascertain that the obligations of the customer have been fully performed before being required to return any deposit in the case where there has not been an automatic refund.

c. The interest rate to be paid by public service districts shall be determined as follows. The Staff of the Commission shall determine a rate which a typical small investor could receive at federally insured banks in West Virginia in the last quarter of each calendar year. The Staff shall by January 15 of each year report to the Commission its rate with supporting information. The Commission will issue an order setting the rate to be paid until the next annual Commission order. The simple interest shall be paid at the date of discontinuance of service or at the end of the deposit period.

d. The interest rate to be paid by all water utilities other than public service districts shall be determined as follows. The rate which utilities shall be required to pay shall be the average of the one-year United States Treasury Bill rates for October, November and December of the preceding calendar year. By January 15 of each year, Staff of the Commission shall make the necessary calculations and file with the Commission its calculations. The Commission will issue an order setting the rate to be paid by the utilities until the next annual Commission order. The simple interest shall be paid at the date of discontinuance of service or at the end of the deposit period.

e. A current customer of a public service district who requests service at another location within the jurisdiction of the district who has made timely payment of bills for the previous twelve months and, who otherwise would not be required to pay a deposit as a condition of service at the new location, is not required to pay a deposit for service at the new location as that customer is not a new applicant for service under West Virginia Code §16-13A-9. The preceding sentence shall not apply to multiple service locations. Multiple service locations shall require multiple deposits.

f. Upon proper showing by complaint or otherwise, the Commission may require any utility to segregate the customer deposits into a special interest bearing account at a federally insured institution.

g. All utilities that collect security deposits must do so in a uniform and nondiscriminatory manner.

h. ~~e.~~ All new applicants for service from a combined water and sewer public service district shall make a deposit, or supply a guarantee, as provided by these Rules for each of the services to be rendered or fifty dollars (\$50.00) whichever is greater, deposit a minimum of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) with the district to secure the payment of both water

~~and sewer service rates and charges.~~

~~i. d.~~ Record of deposit -- Each utility holding a cash deposit shall keep a record showing: (I) the name and current address of each depositor; (ii) the amount and date of the deposit; (iii) each transaction concerning the deposit.

~~i. e.~~ The receipt -- Concurrently with receiving a cash deposit, the utility shall deliver to the applicant for service or customer, a receipt showing: (I) the date thereof, (ii) the name of the applicant or customer and the address of the premises to be served or served, (iii) the service to be furnished or furnished, and (iv) the amount of the deposit and the fact that interest will be paid at a Commission determined rate. ~~rate of interest to be paid thereon.~~ Each utility shall provide automatic means to refund the deposit of a customer, when he is so entitled, if the original receipt cannot be produced. A receipt of proof of payment will not be necessary under the provisions for an automatic refund.

~~k. f.~~ Unclaimed deposits -- Should a utility have retained, through no fault of its own, deposits made by customers to whom service has been discontinued during any calendar year, it shall, on or before the first day of March, in each year, mail to the customer's last known address a check as refund of the deposit plus accrued interest, or at the utility's option, publish a list of such depositors, in a newspaper published and of general circulation in each of the counties in which it operates and in which the deposits were made, showing as of the thirty-first (31st) day of December immediately preceding, the amount of each such deposit, together with the interest due thereon, and notifying depositors listed therein that their deposits, together with accrued interest, are being held to their credit and will be returned upon request. The utility shall not be liable for any interest on such deposit after publication of such lists. Upon the completion of the above procedure, the deposit shall be considered as derelict property subject to recovery by the State of West Virginia under the provisions of Chapter 34, Article 2, Section 1 of the Code of West Virginia.

#### 4.2.2. Guarantee agreement --

a. A utility may accept, in lieu of the cash deposit, a guaranty agreement signed by a financially responsible guarantor, whereby payment of a specified sum, not exceeding the cash deposit aforesaid, is guaranteed. The guarantor may, upon request, receive copies of disconnection notices sent to the customer whose account has been guaranteed: **Provided,** however, That the limitations herein fixed upon the terms of a guaranty

agreement shall not apply to industrial customers.

b. The term of the guaranty agreement shall be indeterminate, but it shall terminate when the customer gives notice to the utility of discontinuance of service at the location covered by the guaranty agreement, or six months after discontinuance of service where no notice was given, or at the guarantor's request upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the utility. Upon termination of a guaranty agreement, or whenever the utility deems the same insufficient as to amount of surety, a cash deposit or a new or additional guaranty may be required upon reasonable written notice to the customer.

c. Application in case of receiver or trustee -- The aforesaid provisions shall apply in the case of a receiver or trustee operating, under court order, a business requiring utility service.

#### 4.3. Billing information.

4.3.1. Bills shall be rendered periodically, and they shall show the readings of the meter at the beginning and end of the period for which the bill is rendered, the date of the meter readings, the number of cubic feet or gallons of water supplied, and the authorized rate. If the utility must, for any reason, render an estimated bill, the bill shall be clearly marked as an estimated bill.

4.3.2. Opening and closing bills, monthly or quarterly, for water service rendered for periods of five (5) days more or five (5) days less than the normal billing period will be computed in accordance with the rate applicable to that service, by the amount of water blocks, and the minimum charge as set forth in that rate will be prorated on the basis of the number of days in the period in question, to the total number of days in the normal period.

4.3.3. Utilities desiring to adopt mechanical billing of such nature as to render compliance with all the terms of Rule 4.3.1. impractical, may make application to the Commission for relief from part of these terms. After consideration of the reasons given when asking for relief, the Commission may allow the omission of part of these requirements.

4.3.4. On all bills which include any other items than a definite authorized water rate, the other factors used in computing the bill shall be clearly stated so that the amount may be readily verified from the information appearing upon the bill.

4.3.5. Each bill ~~may~~ shall bear upon its face the latest date upon which it may be paid without penalty. On all accounts not paid in full within twenty (20) days of the billing date, ten percent (10%) penalty may be added to the net amount shown. This delayed payment penalty is not interest and is only to be collected once for each bill where it is appropriate. This provision must be in the utility's tariff if used by the utility.

#### 4.4. Adjustment of bills.

4.4.1. Fast meters -- If, upon test of any meter, the meter is found to have an average error of more than two percent (2%) fast, the utility shall refund to the customer the overcharge, based upon the corrected meter reading for a period equal to one-half (1/2) the time elapsed since the last previous test, but not to exceed six (6) months. If it can be shown that the error was due to some cause, the date of which can be fixed, the overcharge shall be computed back to but not beyond such date. If the meter has not been tested in accordance with Rule 6.5., the period for which it has been in service beyond the regular test period shall be added to the six (6) months in computing the refund.

4.4.2. Dead meters -- If a meter is found not to register for any period, the utility shall compute the water used by taking the average of the water used for the meter-reading period preceding and the meter-reading period following the date when the meter was found to be dead, which amount shall be assumed to be the amount of water used by the customer during the billing period in which the meter was found dead. Exceptions will be made to this rule in case the facts clearly show that the above method does not give the correct consumption for the period. Dead or malfunctioning meters should be fixed or replaced within thirty days of the discovery of the condition by the utility.

#### 4.4.3. Leaks on the customer's side of the meter --

a. Each utility shall develop and implement a written policy concerning the adjustment of customer bills where the bill reflects unusual usage which can be attributed to leakage on the customer's side of the meter. Leaking commodes, dripping facets, malfunctioning appliances and similar situations shall not constitute leaks which entitle the customer to a recalculated bill. The policy shall be maintained in the utility's office for inspection by the public and shall be applied in a uniform, non-discriminatory manner to all customers.

b. The policy shall provide for a recalculated

bill to reflect the utility's incremental cost of treating or purchasing the water for all amounts above the customer's historic usage.

c. As an alternative to using incremental cost of treating the water the utility may, at its option, use an adjustment which allows it to recover the Commission's estimate of "typical incremental cost" per thousand gallons of water on usage above the historic usage. The Commission shall from time to time establish its estimate of "typical incremental cost" by order.

d. However, in future rate cases the utility's incremental cost of treatment shall be determined and the rate placed in an appropriate tariff as the leak adjustment rate. After a rate has been determined in a rate case, the utility shall not have the option to use the Commission's estimate of "typical incremental cost" found in 4.4.3.c.

e. The water utility shall, after determining that a leak adjustment must be made, notify the sewer utility of the amount of the adjustment and the reason for making the adjustment.

#### 4.5. Complaints.

4.5.1. Investigation of complaints -- Each utility shall make a full and prompt investigation of all complaints made to it by its customers, either directly or through the Commission. In the event that the complaint is not adjusted, the utility shall, before service is discontinued, notify the customer that he has the privilege of appeal to the Public Service Commission.

4.5.2. Records of complaints -- The utility shall keep a record of all complaints received, which record shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and character of the complaint, and the adjustment or disposal made thereof.

4.5.3. Disposition of records -- Records of complaints shall not be destroyed until a summary has been prepared for permanent record, showing the character of complaints made, the number of each type received in each month, and the disposition of the complaints.

#### 4.6. Disputed bills.

In the event of a dispute between the customer and the utility respecting any bill, the utility shall make forthwith

such investigation as shall be required by the particular case, and report the result thereof to the customer. In the event that the complaint is not adjusted, the utility shall, before service is discontinued, notify the customer that he has the privilege of appeal to the Public Service Commission.

#### 4.7. Customer discontinuance of service.

Every customer who is about to vacate any premises supplied with service by the utility, or who for any reason wishes to have service discontinued, shall give at least twenty-four (24) hours' notice thereof to the utility, specifying the date on which it is desired that service be discontinued. Until the utility shall have such notice, the customer shall be held responsible for all service rendered.

#### 4.8. Utility discontinuance of service.

##### 4.8.1. Notice of discontinuance --

a. No utility shall discontinue service to any customer for violation of rules and regulations or for non-payment of bills, without first having tried diligently to induce the customer to comply with its rules and regulations, or to pay his bills.

b. Service shall actually be discontinued only after at least ten (10) days' written notice shall have been given to the customer by the utility that bills are ~~five ten~~ (10) or more days delinquent, or that the violation of rules must cease: **Provided**, however, That where conditions hazardous to life or property is found to exist on the customer's premises, the water may be shut off without notice in advance. Where written notice is required it must be sent first class mail, address correction requested. Written notice shall comply with Form 14-W. The written notice shall become void if the utility has not discontinued service within thirty (30) days of the date indicated on the notice for termination. The water utility shall attempt personal contact with the customer immediately before termination of water service for either a delinquent water or sewer bill. The inability to make personal contact shall in no way prevent the water utility from terminating service. In no case shall the utility discontinue service on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or a day prior to a holiday unless an emergency exists. All disconnections shall be performed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. The utility shall accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for either a delinquent water or sewer bill. The payment must be for the entire amount of the delinquency to prevent termination.

c. If a landlord of a master-metered apartment building, motel, hotel or other multiple-unit dwelling is responsible for payment of a utility bill, written notice of termination shall be placed at a location readily available for public inspection at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled termination of that apartment building, motel, hotel or other multiple-unit dwelling in order to provide notice of the scheduled termination to the tenants of said apartment building, motel, hotel or other multiple-unit dwelling. This notice shall inform the tenants of the date on or after which termination of service will occur and shall state the steps the tenants can take to avoid termination of service. If the billing address for any single unit service is different than the service location, a written notice shall be delivered or posted at a visible location on the premises where the service is to be terminated at least five (5) days prior to the scheduled termination. This notice shall inform the occupant of the date upon which, or after, termination of service will occur and shall state the steps the occupant can take to avoid termination of service.

d. Any residential customer who has been notified that water service is to be terminated for non-payment of bills shall be given the opportunity to enter into a deferred payment agreement: **Provided**, That the customer has demonstrated an ability to pay but only in installments. The customer shall be informed at the time a disconnect notice is issued of the availability of a reasonable payment plan. The conditions surrounding the deferred payment agreement shall be as follows:

A. The details of the deferred payment agreement are to be negotiated between the utility and the customer and may consider several factors, including, but not limited to the following: amount of the bill; ability of the customer to pay; payment history; time the debt has been outstanding; reasons why the debt has been outstanding; and any other relevant factors.

B. Utilities shall be allowed to collect a carrying charge of six percent (6%) on any outstanding balance subject to a deferred payment agreement: **Provided**, however, That any utility which charges interest on unpaid balances pursuant to its tariff shall be precluded from also charging additional interest pursuant to this rule.

C. Once a deferred payment agreement has been established, if the customer's financial conditions significantly change and the existing payment works a hardship, the utility shall renegotiate the payment agreement, consistent with the provisions of Rule 4.8.1.d.A. However, during the

renegotiation period the customer must timely pay the current bill and make some payment on the arrearage.

D. The deferred payment agreement shall include language informing the customer of the right to appeal the reasonableness of the proposed payments to the Public Service Commission.

E. During the appeal, service may not be terminated: **Provided**, however, That the current bill must be timely paid by the customer in order to protect his rights under this rule.

F. If the deferred payment is not received in accordance with the terms of the agreement, the utility may terminate service only after it has mailed written notice, by first class mail, to the customer at least five (5) calendar days, excluding postal holidays, prior to termination: **Provided**, That at the option of the utility, either personal contact or telephone contact may be substituted for contact by first class mail. If the customer makes the delinquent payment within that notice period, service shall not be terminated.

e. In the case of a sewer utility requesting termination of water service for non-payment of sewer service, the sewer utility shall provide the customer written notice complying with Form 14-W, ten (10) days before the effective termination that the sewer utility will request termination of water service by the water utility if payment is not made in full or a payment schedule is not established as provided by Sewer Rule 4.5.3.b.A. The written notice must be sent first class mail, address correction requested. This notice shall contain a provision notifying the customer that in the event water is terminated the customer will be responsible for and required to pay the fees charged to the sewer utility by the water utility.

f. A sewer utility requesting termination of water service for non-payment of sewer bills shall provide the water utility with a copy of the notice to the customer as provided in Rule 4.8.1.b.

g. A sewer utility will provide the water utility with a written request for termination of water service for non-payment at least twenty-four (24) hours before the end of the ten (10) day notice period to the customer.

#### 4.8.2. Charge for reconnection --

a. Whenever the supply of water is turned off for

violation of rules and regulations, non-payment of bills, or fraudulent use of water, the utility may make a charge as set forth in its tariff for reestablishment of service.

b. If service is discontinued at the request of the customer, the utility may refuse service to such customer, at the same premises, within eight (8) months, unless it shall first receive payment as set forth in the tariff for reconnecting charge.

4.8.3. Insufficient reasons for disconnecting service -- The following shall not constitute sufficient cause for refusing, denying or discontinuing service to an applicant or present customer:

Delinquency in payment for service by a previous occupant of the premises to be served other than a member of the same household.

4.8.4. Combined water and sewer public service districts -- Any public service district providing water and sewer service to its customers shall have the right to terminate water service for delinquency in payment of either water or sewer bills: **Provided**, That proper notice is given and procedures followed as set out in these Rules.

4.8.5. Discontinuance of service by water utilities for non-payment of sewer charges.

a. Inter-utility agreements --

A. Public service district -- In the event that any publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, other municipal corporation or other public service district included within the district owns and operates separately either water facilities or sewer facilities, and the district owns and operates the other kind of facilities, either water or sewer, then the district and such publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation or other public service district shall covenant and contract with each other to shut off and discontinue the supplying of water service for the non-payment of sewer service fees and charges: **Provided**, That proper notice is given and procedures are followed as set forth in Rules 4.8.1.a. through 4.8.1.d.

B. Municipal sewer -- When any municipality owns, maintains, operates or provides sewer facilities to its residents and customers and does not own, maintain, operate or

provide water facilities to them when the same is provided by any other publicly or privately owned utility, municipality or public service district, the municipality providing sewer facilities may require the provider of water facilities to discontinue water service to any of its users who are delinquent in the payment of sewer service rates and charges to the municipality. The provider of water facilities is empowered and authorized hereby to discontinue water service upon demand of the municipality for this purpose; however, prior to discontinuance of any water service, the municipality shall contract with the provider of water facilities which contract shall provide that the municipality shall reimburse the provider of water facilities for all costs and expenses incurred in both the termination of water service to the delinquent user of sewer facilities and the subsequent resumption of water service to such user. The contract shall provide for reasonable methods and assurances so that the provider of water facilities will be protected and held harmless from claims and damages when water service is discontinued in error or in violation of the rights of the user through the fault of the municipality providing sewer facilities and making the demand for discontinuance of water service to the user of such sewer facilities.

C. The contract should contain specific provisions regarding responsibilities of notice of termination, termination, reconnection and provision for fair and reasonable compensation based upon the actual cost of providing such service by the water utility in the termination process. Such compensation may be based on disconnection and reconnection charges in the water utility's tariff or as otherwise agreed between the parties.

D. Any contracts entered into by a public service district pursuant to Rule 4.8.5.a.D. shall be submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval prior to any termination of water service for non-payment of sewer bills under such contracts.

b. A sewer customer who has been notified that water service is to be terminated for non-payment of sewer bills shall be given the opportunity to enter into a deferred payment agreement, **Provided**, That such customer has demonstrated an inability to make payment in full. The terms of such deferred payment agreement shall be set forth as follows:

A. The details of the deferred payment agreement are to be negotiated between the utility and the customer and may consider several factors, including, but not limited to the following: Amount of the bill; ability of the

customer to pay; payment history; time the debt has been outstanding; reasons why the debt has been outstanding; and any other relevant factors; provided that the agreement requires payment of the current bill plus a specific amount per month on the arrearage.

B. Once a deferred payment agreement has been established, if the customer's financial condition change and the existing payment works a hardship, the utility shall renegotiate the payment agreement, consistent with the provisions of Rule 4.8.5.b.A. stated above.

C. The deferred payment agreement shall include language informing the customer of the right to appeal the reasonableness of the proposed payments to the Public Service Commission.

D. During such appeal, service may not be terminated, provided, however, that the current bill plus any amount not in dispute on the arrearage must be paid by the customer in order to protect his rights under this rule.

E. If deferred payment is not received, the utility may terminate service only after it has mailed written notice, by first class mail, to the customer at least five (5) calendar days prior to notifying the water utility to terminate service; provided, that at the option of the utility, either personal contact or telephone contact may be substituted for contact by first class mail. If the customer makes the delinquent payment within that notice period service shall not be terminated.

c. Notice -- In the event that the user is not the property owner, public service districts must provide notice of delinquencies to the property owner pursuant to West Virginia Code §16-13A-9.

#### 4.9. Refusal to serve applicant.

4.9.1. Non-compliance with rules and regulations -- Any utility may decline to serve an applicant until he has complied with the State and municipal regulations governing water service and the Commission approved rules and regulations of the utility.

4.9.2. Applicant's facilities inadequate -- The utility may refuse to serve an applicant if, in its judgment, the applicant's installation of piping equipment is regarded as hazardous or of such character that satisfactory service cannot

be given.

4.9.3. Applicant's recourse -- In the event that the utility shall refuse to serve an applicant under the provisions of this rule, the utility must inform the applicant that the question may be submitted to the Commission for decision.

4.9.4. In the case of the establishment of a new utility and/or extensions, the utility has received applications for service and has accepted the tap-fee for same; the utility will immediately upon receiving bids for such installation determine the feasibility of serving the areas in question and immediately advise the applicants. In the event an area is deemed infeasible to serve, the tap-fee deposit will be returned to the applicant immediately.

It is suggested the utility design its application form to reflect the above procedures.

#### 4.10. Change in character of service.

In case any substantial change is made by a utility in the pressure, or other conditions which would affect the efficiency of operation or adjustment of appliances, the appliances of all customers in the district affected shall be inspected and shall be readjusted, if necessary, by the utility for the new conditions without charge. Where circumstances require, the utility shall furnish and install suitable pressure regulating devices.

#### 4.11. Access to property.

4.11.1. The utility shall at all reasonable times have access to meters, service connections and other property owned by it on customer's premises, for the purpose of maintenance and operation. Neglect or refusal on the part of customers to provide reasonable access to their premises for the above purposes shall be deemed to be sufficient cause for discontinuance of service on the part of the utility.

4.11.2. Identification for employees -- Every employee, whose duties regularly require him to enter the homes of customers, shall wear a distinguishing uniform or insignia, identifying him as an employee of the utility and shall carry on his person an identification card which will identify him as an employee of the utility, containing a photograph of said employee. The identification card shall contain the telephone number of the utility as well as other pertinent information necessary to identify the employee. All other employees, whose duties

require occasional entry into the homes or premises of customers, shall carry an identification card containing information as herein required.

4.12. Service interruptions.

4.12.1. Records of interruptions -- Each utility shall keep a record of any interruption of service affecting its entire system or a major division thereof, including a statement of the time, duration, and cause of the interruption.

4.12.2. Notification to customer -- Every customer affected shall be notified in advance of contemplated work which will result in an interruption of service. [See Rule 4.14.3. Notice]

4.12.3. Curtailment or restriction service policy -- Each utility shall make application to the Commission for any contemplated curtailment or restriction policy to any customers, prior to such curtailment or restriction policy being put into effect. The following information shall be supplied:

a. Reason for curtailment or restriction of service.

b. Date curtailment or restriction policy requested to begin.

c. Duration of policy and projected correction programs with time parameters for completion.

4.13. Resale of water.

Water furnished on approved rates or contracts by a public utility shall not be resold or caused to be resold by any customer unless the said customer is engaged in the business of distributing water as a public utility.

4.14. Interpretations.

4.14.1. Residential service -- Residential service is defined as service to a householder or tenant living in a separate apartment in an apartment building.

Should the owner of a multiple apartment building undertake to furnish water to his tenants as a part of their monthly rent, then such service shall be classed as "Commercial." However, a close branch of a householder's family, living with the householder and using the same water facilities, shall not be

classified as an additional service or as "Commercial." In cases where a householder or tenant devotes some portion of the occupied building to commercial use and uses the remainder as a residence then the predominate use of water shall constitute the basis for classification as either residential or commercial.

4.14.2. Commercial service -- Commercial service is defined to include service to each separate business enterprise, occupation or institution occupying for its exclusive use any units or units of space as an entire building, entire floor, suite of rooms or a single room, and using water for such incidental use as the schedule of rates applicable to the particular installation may permit. Commercial service shall apply to all stores, offices, hotels, wholesale houses, garages, display windows, signs, theaters, barber and beauty shops, churches, opera house, auditoriums, lodge halls, school houses, banks, bakeries and any other space occupied for commercial purposes. Any rooming house, lodging house, resort, inn or tavern renting more than four rooms to strangers or transients without any previous agreement for accommodation or as to the duration of stay shall be classed as a hotel and as such it comes under the commercial classification.

4.14.3. Notice -- Where possible individual notice of service interruption is urged, such as by telephone, notice at residence, or by mail. However, a general advice by newspaper of circulation in the affected area, or radio or television announcement will meet the notice requirement.

#### **§150-7-5. Engineering requirements.**

##### **5.1. Adequacy of facilities.**

5.1.1. Construction and maintenance of plant -- Each utility shall at all times construct and maintain its entire plant and system in such condition that it will furnish safe, adequate and continuous service.

5.1.2. Inspection of plant -- Each utility shall inspect its plant and facilities in such manner and with such frequency as may be necessary to insure a reasonably complete knowledge as to their conditions and adequacy at all times. Such inspections must comply with the requirements of the legally applicable Minimum Federal Safety Standards (Federal Occupational Health and Safety Administration) and the standards of the West Virginia Department of Health.

5.1.3. Records of conditions -- Records necessary for the proper maintenance of the system and in accordance with the

West Virginia Department of Health and the Minimum Federal Safety Standards shall be kept of the conditions found. In special cases, a more complete record may be specified by the Commission.

5.1.4. Records of operation -- Each utility shall keep a record of the operation of its plant, which, so far as practical, shall show such details of plant operation as may be necessary to substantially reproduce the daily history of its operation. The records shall also be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Minimum Federal Safety Standards and West Virginia Health Department.

5.1.5. Reports to commission -- Each utility shall, upon request of the Commission, file with the Commission a statement regarding the condition and adequacy of its plant, equipment, and facilities, and of its operations and service in such form as the Commission may require.

5.1.6. West Virginia Department of Health Standards - All extensions, service connections and modifications to the utility's plant must meet applicable design standards established by the West Virginia State Department of Health in addition to these rules.

## 5.2. Unaccounted for water.

Each utility shall determine either by actual measurement or by estimate the amount of "Unaccounted for Water" in each division of its system and report, separately, to the Commission in its annual report. Said report shall contain the proposed remedial actions to be taken if unaccounted for water is in excess of fifteen percent (15%) of the gross production.

## 5.3. Cross connections and back flow prevention regulations.

See West Virginia State Board of Health Bulletin EW-113 Effective April 1, 1976.

## 5.4. Standard pressure.

5.4.1. Each utility shall, subject to the approval of the Commission, adopt and maintain a standard pressure in its distribution system. Each utility shall select a point or points on its distribution system to be designated as the point or points of "standard pressure." The selection of such points shall be confined to locations fairly representative of average conditions. In selecting points for fixed standard pressure a utility may divide its distribution system into districts, when such division is necessary due to differences of elevation or

loss of pressure because of friction, or due to both of said causes; and may adopt a standard pressure for each such division, or a utility may establish a single standard pressure for its distribution system as a whole. In no case shall the constant difference between the highest and lowest pressures in a district for which a standard has been adopted exceed fifty percent (50%) of such standard. In the interpretation of this rule it shall be understood that in districts of widely varying elevations a utility may undertake to furnish a service which does not comply with the foregoing specifications. In such event, the customer shall be fully advised of the conditions under which average service may be expected, and the customer's agreement secured in writing. It shall be understood that this waiver shall not deny the right of the customer to request a service more nearly comparable to that furnished to the balance of the system, or the Commission's right to require a better service when, upon investigation, it appears right and proper that such betterments should be made.

5.4.2. Each utility should establish an elevation in each pressure district above which it cannot serve water. This elevation shall be filed with the Utilities Division of the Commission and displayed in a prominent place in the public offices of the utility.

5.4.3. The standard pressure to be adopted in Rule 5.4.1. above must be filed with the Utilities Division of the Commission. No change shall be made by a utility in the standard pressure or pressures adopted for its system without the approval of the Commission.

5.4.4. A customer's pressure shall be no less than twenty (20) p.s.i. at peak demand on system or thirty (30) p.s.i. static pressure at the terminus of the utility's service line (meter box or curb box) unless the customer has waived this requirement.

#### 5.5. Extension of mains.

In the matter of extension of facilities, the following rules shall apply:

##### 5.5.1. Free extensions --

##### a. Public fire service --

A. Any governmental unit located in the utility's service area by ordinance of its Council or by resolution of its Board of County Commissioners shall have the

right to order the installation of additional fire hydrants on existing utility owned mains having an internal diameter of six (6) inches or larger and the utility will install such hydrants at its own cost and expense: **Provided**, however, the estimated gross receipts from such proposed new fire hydrants rentals shall equal or exceed twenty-four percent (24%) annually of the cost of said installations.

B. Where pipeline installations are required to carry out an order of any governmental unit located in the utility's service area to install fire hydrants, or where existing utility owned mains, in the opinion of the utility, are inadequate to provide fire flows to such hydrants, and when any governmental unit located in the utility's service area orders the installation of a water main of adequate size to provide such flows to the hydrant or hydrants so ordered, the utility will install such mains and hydrants at its own cost and expense: **Provided**, however, That the utility shall not be required to make extensions of said water mains unless the estimated gross receipts from private consumers and from such proposed new fire hydrant rentals shall equal or exceed twenty-four percent (24%) annually of the cost of such extensions.

b. General water service --

A. The utility will, upon written request for service by a prospective customer or group of prospective customers located in the same neighborhood, determine the necessary size of main required to give service and make an estimate of the cost of the proposed extension including pipe, valves, fittings, necessary materials, and all other costs such as labor, permits, and related costs. The written estimate shall be provided to the customer no more than forty-five (45) days from the receipt by the utility of the written request for service. The written estimate shall include an estimated construction start date and an estimated time of construction. If the prospective customer believes that any part of the estimate is unreasonable, the customer is free to file a formal complaint with the Commission. Further, the utility shall provide a copy of the main extension rule to the prospective customer and obtain a written acknowledgment from the customer that a copy of the rule has been furnished to the customer. The utility shall keep a written record of the customer's acknowledgement for at least six (6) years. The length of the extension required shall be that length required to extend from the new proposed service area to the nearest main having sufficient excess capacity to provide service at maximum demand or said condition satisfied by other means such as storage.

B. Where the cost of the extension does not exceed three and one-half (3-1/2) times the estimated normal annual revenue from hydrants and prospective customers whose service pipes will immediately be connected directly to the extension and from whom the utility has received applications for service upon forms provided by the utility for this purpose, the utility will install, at its own cost and expense, the necessary extension: **Provided**, That the patronage or demand will be of such permanency as to warrant the capital expenditure involved.

Normal annual revenue shall be based on one hundred-fifty (150) gallons per day per residential unit or latest edition of American Water Works Association estimates and consumption for various units.

5.5.2. Extensions beyond free limit of general water service and public fire service --

If the estimated cost of the proposed extension required in order to furnish general water service exceeds three and one-half (3-1/2) times the utility's estimate of immediate normal annual revenue as determined by 5.5.1.b.B., such extension ~~will~~ shall be made if the applicant or the applicant's authorized agent ~~shall~~ contracts for such extension and ~~shall~~ deposits in advance with the utility the estimated cost of the extension over and above the free extension limit. The utility shall not pay nor be liable for any interest on the cash deposits associated with line extensions. The utility shall make the extension after receiving the cash deposit. The utility shall, "At the end of each fiscal year utility will in such case, for each bona fide new customer who later directly connecteds to the extension between its original beginning and the original terminus within a period of ten (10) years from the making of such extension, refund to the original depositor or depositor(s), an amount equal to three and one-half (3-1/2) times the estimated gross annual revenue, exclusive of taxes, surcharges, sewer charges or other similar charges, of the new customer, but in no event shall the aggregate refund made to any depositor the depositor(s) exceed the original deposit of such depositor. Provided, however, that public service districts and municipal water utilities may elect to refund the estimated amount over a period of seven (7) years making payments no less frequently than every six (6) months.

5.5.3. Alternate depositor - financed extension plan.

a. Qualifying utilities

The above requirements notwithstanding, the utility may decline to finance the free extension portion of a

requested extension if it can demonstrate that it has no prospect of any reasonable internal or external financing including through commercial loans, grants or through an installment arrangement with an entity installing the extension or providing the necessary materials.

A. If the utility declines to finance the free extension portion of a requested extension, the utility shall file for a waiver of the free extension rule within sixty (60) days of the written request.

B. Before filing for a waiver, the utility must first make an estimate of the extension costs.

C. A request for a waiver by a utility shall be accompanied by supporting documentation justifying its request.

D. If the Commission finds that the utility has reasonably declined to finance the free extension portion of the requested line, the Commission shall authorize the use of the alternate depositor-financed extension plan as described below.

b. Description of alternative depositor-financed extension plan.

Under the alternate depositor-financed extension plan, the utility shall make the extension after:

A. receiving a cash deposit equal to the full amount of the extension cost; and

B. agreeing to give the depositor(s), who is a customer, a monthly bill credit totaling one hundred percent (100%) of their estimated bill(s) for three and one-half (3 1/2) years from the date service is initiated. The estimate shall be made at the time the extension plan is finalized and shall not be changed based on subsequent actual usage; and

C. agreeing to refund to the original depositor(s) an amount equal to three and one-half (3 1/2) times the estimated gross annual revenue of each bona fide customer, other than the depositor(s), who directly connects to the extension between its original beginning and the original terminus within a period of ten (10) years from the construction of the extension. The estimate shall occur at the time the bona fide customer, other than the depositor(s), connects to the extension. The refund may be spread out over a seven (7) year period with the utility making payments no less frequently than

every six (6) months.

c. In no event shall the total refund made to the depositor(s) under 5.5.3. exceed the original deposit of the depositor(s).

d. The utility shall not pay nor be liable for any interest on the cash deposits associated with line extensions.

e. "Gross revenue", as mentioned in 5.5.3.b.C. and 5.5.3.c., shall not include any taxes, surcharges, sewer charges or other similar charges which do not constitute revenue for the utility.

5.5.3 4. Adjustment of cost of extension --

a. Should the actual cost of the extension be less than the estimated cost, the utility will refund the difference as soon as the actual costs has been ascertained. When the actual cost of the extension exceeds the estimated cost, then the utility will bill the depositor for the difference between the estimated and the actual cost. No interest will be paid by the utility on the applicant's payment or on any unrefunded balances.

b. In estimating the cost of an extension, the estimate shall be based on the diameter of the pipe to be used: **Provided**, however, That the estimated cost to the customer or customers shall not be based on a pipe in diameter of less than six-inch (6") or greater than the diameter of the main from which the extension is to be made, unless actual consumption estimated for the proposed customer or customers requires a larger pipe.

c. At the expiration of said ten (10) year period, the refund account will be closed and no further refunds will be made.

d. Extensions made under this rule shall be and remain the property of the utility.

e. The utility reserves the right to further extend its water mains from and beyond the terminus of each water main extension made under this rule, and the depositor or the depositor's agent paying for an extension shall not be entitled to any refund for the attaching of customers to any further extension or branch mains so installed.

f. In determining the length of main extensions or of pipelines to be installed in an urban area when land is subdivided into lots, the main shall be extended to fully cover the frontage of the property, and if the last lot to be served is a corner lot the terminal point of the extension made hereunder shall be located so that the main laid hereunder ties in with the existing main located in the intersecting street; and further: **Provided**, That if there is no main located in the intersection street, the terminal point of the extension made hereunder shall be located at the nearest street line of the intersecting street. In rural areas or open land areas, the extension required will be that length necessary to adequately serve the applicant.

g. Before water lines will be laid hereunder in any new subdivision, it is understood and agreed that the road surface shall be brought to the established sub-grade as determined by the agency having jurisdiction.

h. This rule shall not be construed as prohibiting the utility from providing an alternate plan for main extensions so long as no discrimination is practiced between customers whose service requirements are similar. ~~"However, such alternate plan shall be filed with the Secretary's office of the Public Service Commission."~~ However, such alternate plan shall be filed with and approved by the Public Service Commission prior to implementation of the alternate plan by any of the parties. Failure to obtain Public Service Commission approval will result in the loss of the right to obtain reimbursement from the utility. If an entity other than the utility constructs the extension, upon completion of construction and proper utility inspection of the extension, the utility shall initiate service only after proper transfer of title of all facilities including property, plant and rights-of-way incidental to the furnishing of utility service.

i. Contract for service -- The utility shall not be required to make free extensions or refunds as described in this rule unless those to be served by such extension shall guarantee to the utility that they will take water service at their premises within thirty (30) days after water is turned into the main.

j. Construction conditions -- Construction of line extensions, as provided in this rule, will be undertaken promptly after all applications have been completed and necessary right-of-way agreements or rights of entry have been delivered to the utility and all prospective customers have signed contracts.

k. Right-of-Way -- With respect to the item

"Right-of-Way", it is not the purpose of this rule to require the utility to build extensions over private rights-of-way. If the construction of an extension involves the use of private right-of-way, then the prospective customer, whenever reasonably possible, shall secure the right-of-way and deliver it to the utility free of cost before construction of the extension is started.

If, however, it is not reasonably possible for the prospective customer or customers to secure the right-of-way, and the construction of an extension involves the utility's incurring expense for right-of-way easements, either by purchase or condemnation, such costs shall be added to the total cost of the extension.

As a condition to obtaining a main extension, any property owner or developer shall grant the utility the necessary easements on their property which would allow the utility to make future extensions of the main into unserved areas. The granting of the necessary easements shall be made without the utility being required to pay additional consideration for the additional easements to the property owner or developer. If the property owner or developer is unwilling to grant the additional easements, the utility shall not be required to extend its main to serve the property owner or developer.

1. The Commission shall consider, upon proper filing of a tariff rate case by the utility, the inclusion of an impact fee to be assessed against customers that will create a significant impact on the utility's capacity.

#### 5.6. Service connections.

5.6.1. Where its distribution mains are now or may hereafter be installed, the utility will install the service pipe and appurtenances between the water main in the street up to and including the stop cock and curb box, or the copper setter when installed in a meter box at or near the property line or right-of-way at or near ninety (90) degrees to the main: **Provided,** That the service pipe is required for the immediate and continuous supply of water for general water service to premises abutting the public street or highway in which such mains are located; and all such service pipes and appurtenances shall be installed only by the utility unless by prior written agreement.

5.6.2. The utility shall not make any charge for furnishing and installing any permanent service connection, meter or other appliance necessary to deliver and measure the water furnished unless the utility has prior approval of the Public

Service Commission for establishing a tap-on or connection fee.

5.6.3. Temporary service connections for construction or other temporary purposes shall be installed by the utility at the cost of the applicant.

5.6.4. Each water utility shall adopt standard methods of meter installations where practicable. Such method shall be set out with a written description and with drawings to the extent necessary to a clear understanding of the requirement; all of which shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Public Service Commission.

5.6.5. Service pipes supplying a premises shall not pass through or across any premises or property other than that to be supplied, nor across any portion of the property that could practicably be sold separately from the immediate premises supplied, and no water pipes or plumbing in any premises shall be extended therefrom to adjacent or other premises.

5.6.6. The utility will make all connections to its distribution mains and will specify the size, kind, quality and location of all materials used in the service line.

5.6.7. The corporation cock, curb cock, curb box, or coppersetter when installed in a meter box, and the utility's service pipe from the distribution main to the curb cock or coppersetter will be furnished, installed and maintained by the utility and shall remain under its sole control and jurisdiction.

5.6.8. The utility will not, at its own cost and expense, install service pipes for private fire service or temporary service connections.

5.6.9. The curb box or meter box shall be set at a location approved by the utility and shall be kept accessible at all times.

5.6.10. The customer's service pipe from the curb cock or coppersetter to the place of consumption shall be installed in a workmanlike manner and shall be furnished, installed and maintained by the customer at his own expense and risk.

5.6.11. The customer's service pipe and all connections and fixtures attached thereto shall be subject to the inspection of the utility before the water will be turned on, and all premises receiving a supply of water and all service pipes, meters and fixtures, including any and all fixtures within the said premises, shall at all reasonable hours be subject to

inspection by any duly authorized employees of the utility.

5.6.12. The customer's service pipe shall be laid below the frost line at all points and shall be placed on firm and continuous earth so as to give unyielding and permanent support; shall not be laid in driveways nor pass through premises other than that to be supplied; and shall be installed in a trench at least two (2) feet in a horizontal direction from any other trench wherein gas pipe, sewer pipe, or other facilities, public or private, are or are to be installed.

5.6.13. The customer shall install and properly maintain in good working condition a stop and waste cock of a type approved by the utility on the customer's service pipe immediately inside the foundation wall in a readily accessible location and in a place protected from the possibility of freezing and so placed that it will shut off and drain all plumbing within any and all buildings in the premises.

5.6.14. The customer shall install his service pipe to the point of service and/or meter at a point as designated by the Manager or other authorized employee of the utility, after which the utility will install the service from the main to the designated point of service.

5.6.15. Where the utility's service pipe is already installed to the point of service, the customer shall connect with the service pipe as installed.

5.6.16. The customer shall not be required to make changes in the customer's service pipe or meter location required on account of changes of grade, relocation of mains, and other causes not related to the customer. Said changes shall be accomplished by the utility and said utility shall bear the full costs related thereto.

5.6.17. No fixture shall be attached to, or any branch made in, the service pipe between the meter and the distribution main.

5.6.18. Each premises shall be supplied through an independent service pipe from a separate curb cock or coppersetter, unless otherwise approved by the utility in writing.

5.6.19. Customer's service pipes must be kept and maintained in good condition and free from all leaks and defects at the customer's cost and expense, and for failure so to do, water service may be discontinued.

## 5.7. Dead ends.

"Dead ends" in the distribution mains should be avoided so far as possible. If such "Dead ends" exist the utility shall provide facilities for flushing.

## 5.8. Long service lines.

To assure the orderly development of its system, and to provide adequate service to its customers, the utility should ordinarily provide water service only at the property line of the customer requesting service, and in those instances where the utility's service does not extend to the customer's property line, an extension should be made by the utility in accordance with Rule 5.5. of the Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities. In unusual and exceptional cases where the property line of the customer requesting service is excessive distance from the existing main of the utility, and the cost to be borne by the prospective customer under Rule 5.5. is prohibitive, and there is no reasonable prospect of further growth and development in the area, or for any one of the above reasons, the utility may serve the customer by installing a meter in the utility's right-of-way at its main nearest the customer's property, and connecting the meter to the customer's privately owned service line. The customer shall extend his service line to an existing main of the utility and shall be solely responsible for service beyond the meter. Standards of service received by the customer shall be determined at the metering point. The customer shall not permit others to connect their water lines or receive water service from his privately owned service line. In the event the utility's main is later extended to the customer's property line under Rule 5.5., the customer shall discontinue the use of his privately owned service line and shall pay all costs and charges authorized by the rules of the Public Service Commission and the rules and tariffs of the utility for water service from such extension, the same as if the customer had not previously laid and received service through a private service line. The provisions of this rule shall apply to all persons now or hereafter receiving water service through a privately owned service line extending from the utility's main to the property to be served.

## 5.9. Quality of water.

5.9.1. Purity -- All water furnished by a utility for domestic use, shall be pure, wholesome, potable and in no way dangerous to the health of the consumer.

5.9.2. Health Department -- Every water utility shall

comply with the rules of the State Department of Health governing purity of water, testing of water, operation of filter plants and such other rules they may prescribe, pursuant to law, having as their ultimate end the purity of water.

§150-7-6. Inspections and tests.

6.1. Meter testing facilities and equipment.

6.1.1. Testing facilities -- Each utility shall provide or have access to such laboratory meter-testing equipment and other equipment and facilities as may be necessary to make the tests required of it by these rules or other orders of the Commission. The apparatus and equipment so provided shall be subject to the approval of the Commission, and it shall be available at all times for the inspection or use by any member or authorized representative of the Commission.

6.1.2. Tests required -- Each utility shall, as a minimum requirement, make such tests as are prescribed under these rules with such frequency, and in such manner, and at such places as are herein provided or as may be approved or ordered by the Commission.

6.1.3. General testing equipment -- Each utility furnishing metered water service shall own and maintain the equipment and facilities necessary for accurately testing all types and sizes of meters employed for the measurement of water unless arrangements shall have been made to have such testing done in a shop or laboratory containing equipment that is acceptable to the Commission. All alterations or repairs to meter testing equipment, which might affect the accuracy of such equipment or the method of operating it, shall be promptly reported in writing to the Commission.

a. Meter test shop -- Each utility shall, unless specifically excused by the Commission, provide for and have available such meter-testing shop and instruments and other equipment and facilities as may be necessary to make the tests required by these rules or other orders of the Commission. Such equipment and facilities shall be satisfactory to and approved by the Commission and shall be available at all reasonable times for the inspection and use of any authorized representative of the Commission.

All testing instruments and other equipment shall at all times be accompanied by a certificate signed by a proper authority giving the date when it was last certified and adjusted, and certificates, when superseded, shall be kept on file in

the office of the utility.

b. Minimum equipment -- Except as noted in Rules 6.1.3.c. and 6.1.3.d. below, testing equipment shall consist of either calibrated tanks or tanks mounted upon weighing scales. In either case, calibrations should be provided with markings so that normal errors may be determined without calculation. It is required, when tanks are mounted upon weighing scales, that the scales be tested periodically by the Consumer Protection Division of the State Department of Labor. Either type of equipment shall be provided with proper valves, gauges and orifices so constructed that the flow may be varied and an accurate check made of the pressure on the intake side of the meter.

c. When meters are tested by weight method it is required that utilities whose measure of quantity is the cubic foot, use test equipment capable of holding not less than two (2) cubic feet of water.

A. Utilities whose measure of quantity is the U. S. gallon shall use equipment holding not less than twenty (20) U. S. gallons.

B. Utilities using scales which do not have calibrated bars to show percent error shall post a chart showing the percent error based on weight of water passing through meter.

d. Small utilities will, under certain conditions, be allowed to test meters by checking them against a "Standard Meter" but said standard shall be checked not less than once each month by weighing the water passed by it, the water so weighed shall be taken as 8.35 pounds per gallon or 62.43 pounds per cubic foot at seventy (70) degrees Fahrenheit. A record of such check tests, together with the name of the meterman performing said tests, and the date thereof shall be kept on file at the office of the utility.

## 6.2. Tagging, sealing and capping meters.

6.2.1. Tagging meters -- Each meter shall either be marked or accompanied by a record card when installed. The marking or card must show the date of the last test if the meter is tested on a time basis or the registration (index reading) and date if the meter may be tested on either a time or registration basis. In no case shall the elapsed time between the date of test and the date of installation exceed four (4) months.

6.2.2. Sealing meters -- All meters tested for installation shall be sealed at the time of test by the

meterman performing the test. The seal shall be of a type acceptable to the Commission. Those utilities using a compression type lead seal shall have as a sealing tool a device furnished with a die, which shall bear the initials of the utility. Utilities using a snap tin type seal shall have the seal stamped in a similar manner.

6.2.3. Capping meters -- All incoming meters must be capped when removed from service and awaiting test. All meters that have been tested and sealed or are ready for installation must be capped when sealed and kept capped until installed.

### 6.3. Accuracy requirements for water meters.

6.3.1. Installation accuracy -- Before being installed for the use of any customer every water meter, whether new, repaired, or removed from the service for any cause, shall be in good order and shall be adjusted to be as nearly correct as is commercially practical. Tests shall be conducted by the utility for accuracy of registration, either in its shop or on the customer's premises, by a competent meterman, who has complied with the rules and regulations of the Commission governing the appointment of metermen. However, a manufacturer's certified test may be accepted in lieu of utilities' test of new meters of one-inch (1") or less in size.

6.3.2. Whenever, on installation, periodic or any other test, a meter is found to exceed a limit of two percent (2%) fast or slow, it must be adjusted so as to register as nearly one-hundred percent (100%) as is commercially practicable.

6.3.3. The custom of putting a meter into service without adjusting it, if it is found to be less than two percent (2%) in error, is prohibited. It is required that meters be adjusted to the highest degree of accuracy, commercially practicable, before installation. A tolerance of one percent (1%) fast or slow is sufficient for any utility which carefully supervises its meter shop. Such tolerance meters will start in service as nearly correct as it is practicable to have them. It is possible to set all but a very few old style meters within one-half percent (.5%) correct on every adjustment, and these older styles can be set within one percent (1%) correct. It shall be understood that the allowance of this variation from correctness does not mean that the meter is to be set in error by this amount. The tolerance allows only for the unavoidable irregularity of the work on a commercial scale, and the average of the errors should be practically zero, substantially as many being slightly slow as are slightly fast.

6.3.4. After all necessary repairs, adjustments and final tests have been made so that the meter registers accurately, such meter shall be sealed. It is recommended that all meters of the disc or displacement type, two inch (2") or less in size, be tested before being installed on the premises of any customer.

6.3.5. Meters of the larger sizes may, at the discretion of the utility, be tested after installation. It is recommended that for those installations requiring a three inch (3") or larger meter that there be installed, at the expense of the utility, a "Test Tee" for use in testing large disc, current and compound current and disc meters.

6.3.6. Meters of the current type can be tested and calibrated more accurately in place. The accuracy of current meters is affected by changes in distribution of velocities through the meter. Such variation of velocity may occur to an appreciable degree through change of nature of inlet piping.

All tests to determine the accuracy of registration of any water meter shall be made with a suitable meter prover.

6.3.7. Meter test flow -- The following method and formulae are recommended for conducting tests:

It is recommended that all meters be tested at three rates of flow; but it is required that meters larger than one-inch (1") be tested at three (3) or more rates according to the following table; the average of these tests to determine the percent error:

	ALLOWABLE RANGE TEST FLOW GALLONS PER MINUTE		RECOMMENDED TEST RATE FLOW GALLONS PER MINUTE		
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Med.	Max.
5/8"	1	20	5		20
3/4"	2	34	5		34
1"	3	53	5	25	53
1 - 1/2"	5	100	5	40	100
2"	8	160	10	100	160
3"	16	315	15*	150	315
4"	28	500	15*	250	500
6"	48	1,000	20*	500	1,000

\*NOTE -- A meter failing to register five percent (5%) of the water passed at those rates marked \* should not be installed without correction.

6.3.8. Tests -- How made -- Adjust the flow control of the prover to the proper outlet to allow water to pass at the rate of flow as is set out in the preceding paragraph. (The proper orifice to be used must be determined by trial as the rates of flow will vary proportionately to the pressure at time of test.) By passing water through the meter under test bring the test dial hand exactly to one of the division lines of the dial. Allow water to flow through meter and into container until exactly one or more complete revolutions of the test hand take place. Because the dial of many meters cannot be read as accurately as the scale on the prover, it is preferred in some cases to pass water through meter until meter registers exactly ten gallons (10 gals.) or two cubic feet (2 cu. ft.), when testing small meters and more when testing large meters.

The percent error introduced by reading the weight of water passed to the nearest ounce is less than one-tenth of one percent (1/10 of 1%) when volume passed is approximately ten gallons (10 gals.). Therefore, weight of volume passed may be taken at the nearest ounce. For ease of calculation the weight of a gallon of water may be taken as follows:

The decimal equivalents of ounces are as follows:

1 oz. = .0625 lb.	6 oz. = .375 lb.	11 oz. = .6875 lb.
2 oz. = .125 lb.	7 oz. = .4375 lb.	12 oz. = .75 lb.
3 oz. = .1875 lb.	8 oz. = .5 lb.	13 oz. = .8125 lb.
4 oz. = .25 lb.	9 oz. = .5625 lb.	14 oz. = .875 lb.
5 oz. = .3125 lb.	10 oz. = .625 lb.	15 oz. = .9375 lb.

The formula for determining the percent that a meter is fast is as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Meter Reading} - \text{Prover Reading}) \times 100}{\text{Prover Reading}} = \% \text{ error fast}$$

Example: To calculate percent error fast assume meter registers ten gallons (10 gals.) while volume water passed weighs 75 lbs. 1 oz. Ten gallons (10 gals.) at 8.35 lbs. per gallon equals 83.5 lbs. 75 lbs. 1 oz. equals 75.0625 lbs.

$$\frac{(83.5 - 75.0625) \times 100}{75.0625} = \frac{843.75}{75.0625} = 11.24\% \text{ error fast}$$

The formula for determining the percent that a meter is slow is as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Prover Reading} - \text{Meter Reading}) \times 100}{\text{Prover Reading}} = \% \text{ error slow}$$

Example: To calculate percent error slow assume weight of water passed weighs 92 lbs. 8 oz. while meter registers ten gallons (10 gals.) 92 lbs. 8 oz. equals 92.5 lbs. Ten gallons (10 gals.) at 8.35 lbs. per gallon equals 83.5 lbs.

$$\frac{(92.5 - 83.5) \times 100}{92.5} = \frac{900}{92.5} = 9.72\% \text{ error slow}$$

#### 6.4. Periodic test.

6.4.1. Meters of disc or current (turbine) type in a system supplying filtered, clear spring or well water shall be periodically tested as follows:

- 3/4" or less at least once every 7 years
- 1" at least once every 5 years
- 1-1/4", 1-1/2", 2" at least once every 4 years
- 3" at least once every 2 years
- 4" and larger at least once each year

6.4.2. "Periodic test periods" for testing meters in the system of utilities supplying water of high turbidity, or of peculiar characteristics, will be determined by the Commission from time to time.

6.4.3. Meters of the current and compound type shall be cleaned at intervals as agreed upon by the utility and the Utilities Division of the Public Service Commission.

6.4.4. The time frame for periodic tests may be modified by the Commission from time to time upon the submission of evidence by the utility to substantiate any request for modification.

#### 6.5. Complaint tests.

6.5.1. Procedure -- Upon formal written application to the Public Service Commission by any customer, a test shall be made upon the customer's meter by an inspector of the Commission. The utility owning the meter shall be notified that such test is to be made and shall have a representative present to open the meter, assist in the test, adjust and seal the meter after test. A report giving results of the test shall be made to the customer and the utility, and a complete record of the test shall be kept in the office of the Director of the Utilities Division of the Commission. If the said meter shall be found to register not more than two percent fast, the cost of such test shall be borne by the customer but if the meter shall be found to register incorrectly to the customer's prejudice more than two percent, the cost of such test shall be borne by the utility. See Rule 6.3. for accuracy requirements and test procedures. A representative of the customer may be present when the complaint test is made.

6.5.2. Charge -- All additional tests shall be made as soon as practicable. The charges for making such tests shall be equal to the actual cost of labor and transportation incurred by the utility.

#### 6.6. Request tests.

6.6.1. Action required -- If any customer shall request in writing a test of the accuracy of the meter used by him, and the meter is not due for periodic test, the utility shall notify the customer of the conditions under which the test will be made by the utility or by a referee. If the customer shall then request the utility to proceed with the test and remits an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the scheduled cost of a referee test (See Rule 6.5.) but not less than Five Dollars (\$5.00), the utility shall make the test promptly. If, when tested, the meter is found to be more than two percent (2%) fast, the amount advanced shall be promptly refunded to the customer. If the meter is not found to be more than two percent (2%) in error, the utility shall retain the amount advanced by the customer for the test.

6.6.2. Customer's privilege -- A customer may be present when the utility conducts the test on his meter or, if he

desires, may send an expert or other representative appointed by him.

6.6.3. Report to customer -- A report giving the name of the customer requesting the test, the date of the request, the location of the premises where the meter had been installed, the type, make, size and serial number of the meter, the date of removal, the date tested, the result of the test, and the amount of refund if the meter was found more than two percent (2%) fast, shall be supplied to such customer within ten (10) days after the completion of the test.

#### 6.7. Meter testing employees.

6.7.1. Meterman required -- Every utility shall have in its employ or have access to the services of one or more competent metermen whose duty it shall be to perform such tests as may be necessary to determine the accuracy of the utility's meters.

6.7.2. Certification of metermen -- A utility desiring to certify an employee as a meterman must secure a qualification card from the Commission; have same executed by the applicant and returned to the Commission; together with a certification by a responsible representative of the utility as to the facts contained on the card. The Commission will thereupon issue a card to the employee, if the applicant's qualifications are satisfactory, stating that the qualification card has been received and filed, and that the employee is authorized to test meters of the type shown on the card.

6.7.3. Experience required -- No employee of a utility shall be authorized to test meters unless he has had at least six (6) months' experience in a utility water-meter shop, or equivalent experience, part of which time must have been spent working on the type meter for which authority to test has been requested. All tests must be made by an authorized meterman.

#### 6.7.4. Reports to Commission --

a. Each utility shall file on or before February 1st, each year, a list of the men in its employ authorized to test meters.

b. The utility shall notify the Commission and shall take up and return the meterman's card when a certified meterman ceases to be in its employ.

#### §150-7-7. Safety requirements.

7.1. Accidents.

Every utility shall keep a record of every accidental happening in connection with the operation of its plant, station, property, and equipment, whereby any person shall have been killed, or seriously injured, or any property damaged or destroyed, with full statement of the cause of such accident, and the precautions taken to prevent similar accidents in the future. -----

(Front)

QUALIFICATION CARD FOR WATER METERMAN

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Shop Location \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supervisor-Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

GENERAL EXPERIENCE

Type of Work	Company	Years
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

\*METER EXPERIENCE

Type Meter	Nature of Work	Company	Years
Testing- Disc or Displacement	_____	_____	_____
Current	_____	_____	_____
Compound	_____	_____	_____
Fire Protection	_____	_____	_____
Testing and Repairing- Disc	_____	_____	_____
Current	_____	_____	_____
Compound	_____	_____	_____
Fire Protection	_____	_____	_____

Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

\*State, under remarks, in detail the type or kind or work done on meters.

Should this application be approved, I will test all water meters in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia, and will not seal or approve for installation any meter that does not meet all of the requirements of the Rules and Regulations for the Government of Water Utilities of the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature

(Back)

CERTIFICATE BY RESPONSIBLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UTILITY

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Title Water Company

certify that I have read the questions and answers on this card, relative to the  
experience of \_\_\_\_\_ and that they are true and correct  
Name of Employee

to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further certify that the above named  
employee is competent to test and repair \_\_\_\_\_  
Disc Current Compound  
meters and will, ~~in my will, in my opinion,~~ faithfully and honestly discharge the  
duties of meterman.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

TO BE FILED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

The above employee has been authorized to test Water Meters as shown below:

	Testing	Testing and Repairing
Disc	_____	_____
Current	_____	_____
Compound	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
P.S.C. of W.Va. Employee

(Insert Company Name Here)

**NOTICE OF SCHEDULED TERMINATION OF SERVICE  
AND CUSTOMER RIGHTS**

We have scheduled your water service provided at \_\_\_\_\_  
(address)

\_\_\_\_\_ for termination on or after \_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

This action has been taken for the following reason(s):

(Include reason and facts resulting in decision to terminate service).

If your service is terminated you may be subject to additional charges involving reconnect fees and deposit requirements in order to restore service.

**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHALLENGE THE TERMINATION IF YOU BELIEVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS APPLY TO YOU:**

1. Any portion of the bill is in dispute
2. You are being charged for service not received
3. The information above is incorrect
4. You are unable to pay the bill in accordance with the billing, and termination of service would be especially dangerous to the health or safety of a member of your household
5. You are able to pay only in installments

If the reason for your challenge is 1, 2, or 3 above, you will have to pay any amount not in dispute. If the reason for your challenge is 4 or 5, we will attempt to negotiate a deferred payment plan with you.

**YOU MUST NOTIFY US BEFORE THE DATE OF TERMINATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THIS RULE:**

(Provide instructions for contacting the appropriate utility personnel by telephone and mail, including business hours)

You should also inform us if you are 65 years or older, or regardless of age, if you are physically, mentally, or emotionally incapacitated.

Once you have notified us of your challenge, we will schedule a meeting at the business office nearest to your residence and try to resolve your problem. At your option, the discussion of your challenge may be made over the telephone. **IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH OUR DECISION AT THIS MEETING, YOU WILL HAVE SEVEN DAYS IN WHICH TO FILE AN APPEAL WITH THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA.** You will be required to pay your current bill while the appeal is pending. There is no charge associated with filing an appeal and you may do so without the assistance of an attorney.

Attachment A  
Page 2 of 2

To file an appeal with the PSC, you may call this toll free telephone number 1-800-642-8544 or write to this address:

Utility Appeal  
Public Service Commission of West Virginia  
P.O. Box 812  
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

If you are in need of assistance to pay your bill you should contact the following agencies:  
(List agencies in service area).

If you desire the assistance of a lawyer with regard to the scheduled termination and are unable to pay for legal counsel, contact one of the following low income legal assistance organizations: (List agencies in service area).

(Front)

**WATER METERMAN'S CARD**

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
Charleston, West Virginia

No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Employee

is hereby authorized to test and repair the following type or types of water meters:

	Testing	Testing and Repairing
Disc	_____	_____
Current	_____	_____
Compound	_____	_____
Utility	_____	_____
Shop Location	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_  
P.S.C. of W. Va. ~~Engineer~~ Employee

(over)

(Back)

This card must be returned to the Utilities Division, Public Service Commission of West Virginia by the \_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_ leaves the employ  
of the company or ceases to serve as meterman.

**WATER UTILITY REPORT  
REPORT OF METERS, CUSTOMERS AND REFUNDS  
TO THE UTILITIES DIVISION OR  
PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT DIVISION  
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON**

**THIS REPORT TO BE MADE MONTHLY BY UTILITIES HAVING 300 OR MORE METERS  
THIS REPORT TO BE MADE QUARTERLY BY UTILITIES HAVING LESS THAN 300 METERS**

Name of Utility \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names of Towns Covered by This Report \_\_\_\_\_  
 Period Covered by Previous Report \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_  
 Period Covered by This Report \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Number of Old Meters from Service Tested During This Period Were:  
 More than 2% slow \_\_\_\_\_; 1% to 2%, inclusive, slow \_\_\_\_\_; less than 1% slow \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Slow \_\_\_\_\_  
 More than 2% fast \_\_\_\_\_; 1% to 2%, inclusive, fast \_\_\_\_\_; less than 1% fast \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Fast \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*\*Number of New Meters, or Old Meters not from Service Tested During this Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Meters Tested During this Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tests Made at Customer's Request as per This Report \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Tests Made at Commission's Request as per This Report \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Meters Past Due for Test \_\_\_\_\_

	Metered Customers	Unmetered Customers	Total Customers
Number Domestic Customers Served .....	_____	_____	_____
Number Commercial Customers Served .....	_____	_____	_____
Number Industrial Customers Served .....	_____	_____	_____
Total Domestic, Commercial, Industrial Customers .....	_____	_____	_____
Number Public Fire Protection Customers Served .....	_____	_____	_____
Number Private Fire Protection Customers Served .....	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS -</b>			
ALL CLASSES .....	_____	_____	_____

\*Number of Refunds to be Made Account Fast Meters Found During This Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount of Refund Account of Fast Meters Found During This Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Number of Customers to be Billed Account Slow Meters Found During This Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Amount to be Billed Account of Slow Meters Found During This Period \_\_\_\_\_  
 Report Covering Meter Tests Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Report Covering Customers and Refunds Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:**

All spaces on this report MUST be filled in using "O" or the word "none" where applicable. Public Service Districts should submit the report to the PSD Division. All other utilities should submit report to the Utilities Division.  
 \*Make special note if any Meters more than 2% fast or slow recorded above were used to measure service for company's use, free customers, customers who had a minimum bill for the 3 months previous to date of test, or any other special condition.  
 \*\*All New Meters must be tested and a record made of their condition before being installed, but a report of their percent condition is not required.



# Public Service Commission

Richard E. Hitt, General Counsel

201 Brooks Street, P.O. Box 812  
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

Phone: (304) 340-0317  
FAX: (304) 340-0372

October 11, 1995

Judy Cooper, Director  
Administrative Law Division  
Secretary of State's Office  
Building 1, Suite 157-K  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0770

Re: Series 7 (Water Utilities Rules)

Dear Judy:

Enclosed is the Commission's final rulemaking concerning Water Rules. We have included a diskette which includes the full text of the rules with the final changes as well as the forms. If you discover any problems with any of this material, please bring those problems directly to my attention.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. HITT  
General Counsel  
(304)340-0317

REH/mh  
Enclosure

cooper4.wpd