



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 4, 2010

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Dear Honorable Commissioners:

We write to request a renewal of the Public Utilities Commission's previously adopted emergency regulations to restore gas and electric services to protected low-income customers. We respectfully ask the commission to consider modifying its current rules to allow the required down payment for reconnection to be reduced to the same arrearage down-payment plan that was adopted from Oct. 5, 2009 to Dec. 1, 2009 (see attachment). This modification can apply for a specified period of time to provide an opportunity for low-income households to re-establish utility service prior to the onset of cold weather.

Specifically, for a similar period in 2010, residential customers who have been terminated would be allowed to have service reinstated under terms that provide for a down-payment of 10 percent, 15 percent or 20 percent, depending on the amount of the unpaid balance. Further, under the temporary modification order, customers would be required to agree to a payment plan with respect to the remaining unpaid balance for either 18, 24 or 36 months, depending on the amount of the unpaid balance.

With a still-stagnant economy, many Rhode Islanders face the prospect of trying to survive the approaching winter without heat for their homes. Action is needed once again to help low-income households. We hope you will strongly consider assisting Rhode Island families, elderly persons, individuals with disabilities, and those who are living with limited incomes, to survive the approaching cold weather. Thank you in advance for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Gordon D. Fox
Speaker

Sincerely,

M. Teresa Paiva Weed
Senate President

GDF/rad

cc: Thomas F. Ahern, PUC Administrator
Henry Shelton, George Wiley Center

EMERGENCY RULE

10%-15%-20% Arrearage Down-Payment Plan

(Oct. 5, 2009 to Dec. 1, 2009)

- Applicable to a residential "Protected" customer whose gas or electric service is terminated or is scheduled to be terminated.

- A residential customer is eligible for restoration or continuation of their utility service under the reduced "down payment" plan if:
 1. The customer did not previously participated in the reduced "down-payment" plan or
 2. The customer did participate and the current balance is the same or less than when the customer enrolled in the previous year

- Customer must also pay current bills by its due date in conjunction with the arrearage payment plan.

ARREARAGE DOWN-PAYMENT PLAN

UTILITY BALANCE	DOWN PAYMENT PERCENTAGE	PAYMENT PLAN FOR RESIDUAL BALANCE
Less than \$1,000	20%	18 Months
\$1,000 to \$2,500	15%	24 Months
\$2,500 or more	10%	36 Months