

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING
THE TERMINATION OF RESIDENTIAL ELECTRIC,
GAS AND WATER UTILITY SERVICE

DOCKET NO. 3976

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Pursuant to the provisions of Rhode Island General Laws §§39-1 and 42-35 of the Rhode Island General Laws, as amended, the Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) hereby gives notice that it intends to amend the current Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and Water Utility Service (“Termination Rules”) adopted by the Commission on May 1, 2002, as amended February 7, 2008.

The purpose of the amended regulations is to make the following changes to the Termination Rules: (1) change the language regarding infant protection from “living in a residence where there is domiciled a person under the age of twelve (12) months and there is a financial hardship” to “living in a residence where there is domiciled a person under the age of two (2) years and there is a financial hardship” in accordance with Public Law 08-445; (2) making wording changes to the eligibility guidelines to conform with the language of Public Law 08-445; and (3) updating Appendix A with the updated Estimated State Median Income for purposes of determining financial hardship.

The regulations will apply to all residential customers of regulated electric, gas and water utility service.

The rules and regulations, in both form existing and proposed in a redacted version specifying additions are on file at the Clerk’s office and may be examined there. Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained in person at the Commission’s office, by mail by calling 941-4500, ext. 107, or may be accessed at www.ripuc.org, under Proposed Regulations.

Interested persons wishing to offer data, views, or arguments on the proposed rules and regulations may do so in writing, by submitting their comments to the following address by and not later than 4:00 P.M., September 8, 2008.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk
Public Utilities Commission
89 Jefferson Boulevard
Warwick, Rhode Island 02888

Reference is also made to Chapters 42-35 and 39-1 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Specifically Sections, 42-35-1, 42-35-2, 43-35-3, 42-35-4, 42-35-5, 39-1-1, 39-1-3, 39-1-11, 39-1-18 and 39-1-38.

Luly E. Massaro
Commission Clerk
August 7, 2008

**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Public Utilities Commission**

**Concise Summary of Proposed Non-Technical Amendments
To
Rules and Regulations Governing the Termination of Residential Electric, Gas and
Water Utility Service**

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Section 43-35-3(a)(1) of the General Laws of Rhode Island, following is a concise summary of proposed non-technical amendments:

1. Sections 1(E)(5) of the existing rules define a person under the age of twelve (12) months as protected under “Protected Status Customer”. The proposed rules change the definition to person under the age of two (2) years.
2. Text changes are made to the existing rules to conform with the definition for infant protection from twelve (12) months to two (2) years in Section 3(F)(1) and (a), Section 4(C)(9) and Appendix C.
3. Section 3(F)(1)(a) adds language “verifiable (i.e. hospital or physician)” as documentation for eligibility in the existing rule. This language is added throughout Section 3(F) of the existing rules in Sections 3(F)(1)(b),(d),(e) and (f).
4. Appendix A of the existing rules is replaced with the updated Estimated Rhode Island Median Income for purposes of determining hardship.