

State of Florida



Public Service Commission

CAPITAL CIRCLE OFFICE CENTER • 2540 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-0850

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE: July 11, 2012
TO: Ann Cole, Commission Clerk, Office of Commission Clerk
FROM: Cindy Miller, Office of the General Counsel
RE: Docket No. 120125-PU

RECEIVED-FPSC
12 JUL 11 AM 9: 11
COMMISSION
CLERK

Please file the attached rule certification packet for Rule 25-7.083, F.A.C., in the docket file listed above. The rule certification packet was filed with DOS on July 6, 2012.

Thank you.

Attachment

DOCUMENT NUMBER - DATE

04599 JUL 11 12

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

COMMISSIONERS:
RONALD A. BRISÉ, CHAIRMAN
LISA POLAK EDGAR
ART GRAHAM
EDUARDO E. BALBIS
JULIE I. BROWN

STATE OF FLORIDA



GENERAL COUNSEL
S. CURTIS KISER
(850) 413-6199

Public Service Commission

July 6, 2012

Ms. Liz Cloud
Florida Department of State
Administrative Code and Weekly Section
Room 701, the Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Re: Rule Certification Packet for Rule 25-7.083, F.A.C., Relating to Customer Deposits

Dear Ms. Cloud:

Enclosed for filing is a complete rule certification packet for Rule 25-7.083, F.A.C., Relating to Customer Deposits, consisting of:

- (1) One compact disc containing the coded text of the rule;
- (2) There are no materials incorporated by reference into this rule;
- (3) One original and two copies of the signed rule certification form;
- (4) One original and two copies of the coded text of the rule, including the legal citations and history notes;
- (5) One original and two copies of the summary of the rule;
- (6) One original and two copies of the detailed written statement of the facts and circumstances justifying the rule; and
- (7) One original and two copies of the summary of the hearings held on the rule.

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FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

Please let me know if you have any questions. The contact name and information for this rule are Cindy Miller, Florida Public Service Commission, Office of General Counsel, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250, (850) 413-6082, cmiller@psc.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Cindy Miller
Senior Attorney

Enclosures

CERTIFICATION OF FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

I hereby certify:

(1) That all statutory rulemaking requirements of Chapter 120, F.S., and all rulemaking requirements of the Department of State have been complied with; and

(2) That there is no administrative determination under Section 120.56(2), F.S., pending on any rule covered by this certification; and

(3) All rules covered by this certification are filed within the prescribed time limitations of Section 120.54(3)(e), F.S. They are filed not less than 28 days after the notice required by Section 120.54(3)(a), F.S.; and

(a) Are filed not more than 90 days after the notice; or

(b) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but not more than 60 days after the administrative law judge files the final order with the clerk or until 60 days after subsequent judicial review is complete; or

(c) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but not less than 21 days nor more than 45 days from the date of publication of the notice of change; or

(d) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but not less than 14 nor more than 45 days after the adjournment of the final public hearing on the rule; or

(e) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but within 21 days after the date of receipt of all material authorized to be submitted at the hearing; or

(f) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but within 21 days after the date the transcript was received by this agency; or

(g) Are filed not more than 90 days after the notice, not including days the adoption of the rule was postponed following notification from the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee that an objection to the rule was being considered; or

(h) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but within 21 days after a good faith written proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative to a proposed rule is submitted which substantially accomplishes the objectives of the law being implemented; or

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(i) Are filed more than 90 days after the notice, but within 21 days after a regulatory alternative is offered by the Small Business Regulatory Advisory Committee.

Attached are the original and two copies of each rule covered by this certification. The rules are hereby adopted by the undersigned agency by and upon their filing with the Department of State.

Rule Nos.

25-7.083, F.A.C.

Under the provision of Section 120.54(3)(e)6., F.S., the rules take effect 20 days from the date filed with the Department of State or a later date as set out below:

Effective: _____
(month) (day) (year)



HONG WANG

Chief Deputy Commission Clerk
Title
3
Number of Pages Certified

25-7.083 Customer Deposits.

(1) Deposit required; establishment of credit. Each company's tariff shall contain their specific criteria for determining the amount of initial deposit. Each utility may require an applicant for service to satisfactorily establish credit, but such establishment of credit shall not relieve the customer from complying with the utilities' rules for prompt payment of bills. Credit will be deemed so established if:

(a) The applicant for service furnishes a satisfactory guarantor to secure payment of bills for the service requested. For residential customers, a satisfactory guarantor shall, at the minimum, be a customer of the utility with a satisfactory payment record. For non-residential customers, a satisfactory guarantor need not be a customer of the utility. Each utility shall develop minimum financial criteria that a proposed guarantor must meet to qualify as a satisfactory guarantor. A copy of the criteria shall be made available to each new non-residential customer upon request by the customer. A guarantor's liability shall be terminated when a residential customer whose payment of bills is secured by the guarantor meets the requirements of subsection (6) of this rule. Guarantors providing security for payment of residential customers shall only be liable for bills contracted at the service address contained in the contract of guaranty.

(b) The applicant pays a cash deposit.

(c) The applicant for service furnishes an irrevocable letter of credit from a bank or a surety bond and means
(2) Receipt for deposit. A non-transferable certificate of deposit shall be issued to each customer and means provided so that the customer may claim the deposit if the certificate is lost. When a new or additional deposit is required under subsection (3) of this rule a customer's cancelled check or validated bill coupon may serve as a deposit receipt.

(3) New or additional deposits. A utility may require, upon reasonable written notice of not less than 30 days, such request or notice being separate and apart from any bill for service, a new deposit, where previously waived or returned, or an additional deposit, in order to secure payment of current bills; provided, however, that the total amount of the required deposit shall not exceed an amount equal to the average actual charges for gas service for two billing periods for the 12-month period immediately prior to the date of notice. In the event the customer has had service less than 12 months, then the utility shall base its new or additional deposit upon the average actual monthly billing available.

(4) Record of deposit. Each utility having on hand deposits from customers or hereafter receiving deposits

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from them shall keep records to show:

- (a) The name of each customer making the deposit;
- (b) The premises occupied by the customer;
- (c) The date and amount of deposit; and
- (d) Each transaction concerning the deposit such as interest payments, interest credited or similar transactions.

(5) Interest on deposits.

(a) Each gas utility which requests deposits to be made by its customers shall pay a minimum interest on such deposits of 2.6 percent per annum. The utility shall pay a minimum interest rate of 3.7 percent per annum on deposits of nonresidential customers qualifying under subsection (6) below when the utility elects not to refund such a deposit after 23 months. Such interest rates shall be applied within 45 days of the effective date of the rule.

(b) The deposit interest shall be simple interest in all cases and settlement shall be made annually, either in cash or by credit on the current bill. This does not prohibit any utility paying a higher rate of interest than required by this rule. No customer depositor shall be entitled to receive interest on his deposit until and unless a customer relationship and the deposit have been in existence for a continuous period of six months, then he shall be entitled to receive interest from the day of the commencement of the customer relationship and the placement of deposit.

(6) Refund of deposit. After a customer has established a satisfactory payment record and has had continuous service for a period of 23 months, the utility shall refund the residential customer's deposits and shall, at its option, either refund or pay the higher rate of interest specified above for nonresidential deposits, provided the customer has not, in the preceding 12 months:

- (a) Made more than one late payment of a bill (after the expiration of 20 days from the date of mailing or delivery by the utility);
- (b) Paid with check refused by a bank;
- (c) Been disconnected for nonpayment, or at any time;
- (d) Tampered with the gas meter; or
- (e) Used service in a fraudulent or unauthorized manner. Nothing in this rule shall prohibit the company

from refunding at any time a deposit with any accrued interest.

(7) Refund of deposit when service is disconnected. Upon termination of service, the deposit and accrued interest may be credited against the final account and the balance, if any, shall be returned promptly to the customer but in no event later than fifteen (15) days after service is discontinued.

Specific Authority 366.05(1), 350.127(2) FS. Law Implemented 366.03, 366.05(1) FS. History—

Repromulgated 1-8-75, Amended 6-15-76, 6-10-80, 1-31-84, Formerly 25-7.83, Amended 10-13-88, 4-25-94, 3-14-99.

SUMMARY OF THE RULE

The amendment to Rule 25-7.083, F.A.C., changes the interest rate applied to customer deposits of gas utilities. The minimum interest rate is changed to 2 percent per annum and to 3 percent per annum for non-residential customers when the utility elects not to refund such a deposit after 23 months. The utilities must apply the revised interest rates within 45 days of the effective date of the rule.

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES JUSTIFYING THE RULE

Currently, the minimum interest rates for customer deposits are set at 6 percent and 7 percent per annum, respectively. The current interest rates required on customer deposits are higher than justified by current credit and capital markets. The minimum interest rate is changed to 2 percent per annum and to 3 percent per annum for non-residential customers when the utility elects not to refund such a deposit after 23 months.

SUMMARY OF ANY HEARINGS HELD ON THE RULE

No timely request for a hearing was received by the agency, and no hearing was held.

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