

State of Florida

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DIVISION OF APPEALS
DAVID E. SMITH
DIRECTOR
(904) 413-6245

Public Service Commission

June 3, 1996

Mr. Carroll Webb
Joint Administrative Procedures
Committee
120 Holland Building
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: Docket No. 960169-GU, Proposed Repeal of Rule 25-7.067, F.A.C., Heating Value Standard for Manufactured Gas; Rule 25-7.068, F.A.C., Heating Value Tests; and Rule 25-7.069, F.A.C., Calorimeter Equipment; and Amendment of Rule 25-7.085(2)(c), F.A.C., Customer Billing

Dear Mr. Webb:

The Commission has approved the amendment of Rule 25-7.085(2)(c) and the repeal of Rules 25-7.067, 25-7.068 and 25-7.069, F.A.C., without changes.

The rule does not have an impact on small business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christiana T. Moore".

Christiana T. Moore
Associate General Counsel

WB1125-7.MRD
Enclosure

cc: Division of Records & Reporting

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

06103 JUN-3 1996

1 25-7.067 Heating Value Standard for Manufactured Gas.

2 ~~(1) Each manufactured gas utility shall establish and~~
3 ~~maintain, with the approval of the Commission, a standard heating~~
4 ~~value for its product. This heating value standard, expressed in~~
5 ~~BTU per standard cubic foot, shall be filed with the Commission as~~
6 ~~a part of its schedule of rates or rules and regulations.~~

7 ~~(2) The monthly average heating value of the manufactured~~
8 ~~gas, as delivered to consumers within the area served, shall be not~~
9 ~~less than the heating value standard on file with the Commission.~~

10 ~~(3) The heating value of the manufactured gas shall be~~
11 ~~maintained with as little deviation as practicable and the average~~
12 ~~total heating value on any one day should not exceed or fall below~~
13 ~~the authorized standard by more than four percent (4%) except when~~
14 ~~a substitute gas is used in accordance with the provisions of (5)~~
15 ~~of this rule.~~

16 ~~(4) In maintaining the established heating value, the~~
17 ~~chemical composition and specific gravity shall be such as to~~
18 ~~attain satisfactory combustion in the customer's appliances at all~~
19 ~~times without repeated readjustment of the burners.~~

20 ~~(5) In situations where a supplemental or substitute gas is~~
21 ~~distributed by a utility, the gas quality shall be such that the~~
22 ~~utilization performance, when used as a fuel, will be satisfactory~~
23 ~~regardless of the heating value of the gas.~~

24 ~~(6) No utility shall change its standard of heating value~~
25 ~~without first obtaining the approval of the Commission for such~~

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struck-through type are deletions from existing law.

1 change.

2 Specific Authority: 366.05(1), F.S.

3 Law Implemented: 366.05(1), F.S.

4 History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.67, Repealed

5 _____.

6 ~~25-7.068 Heating Value Tests.~~

7 ~~(1) Tests for heating value shall be made at a location or~~
8 ~~locations which will insure a representative sampling of the gas~~
9 ~~being sent out to the distribution system.~~

10 ~~(2) Any utility supplying manufactured or mixed gas shall~~
11 ~~determine the heating value of such gas at least once each day,~~
12 ~~except Sundays and holidays.~~

13 ~~(3) Any utility supplying natural gas shall make sufficient~~
14 ~~tests, or have access to such tests made by its supplier, as to~~
15 ~~ascertain the heating value.~~

16 ~~(4) Unless the Commission rules otherwise in specific cases,~~
17 ~~the average for any day shall be determined from the record of a~~
18 ~~recording calorimeter where such is available, or it shall be taken~~
19 ~~as the average of the results of all tests of heating value made on~~
20 ~~that day. The average of all such daily averages shall be taken as~~
21 ~~the monthly average.~~

22 ~~(5) Gas which has been compressed to more than five (5)~~
23 ~~pounds per square inch shall be tested for heating value after~~
24 ~~compression, except natural gas.~~

25 Specific Authority: 366.05, F.S.

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1 Law Implemented: 366.05, F.S.

2 History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.68, Repealed

3 _____.

4 ~~25-7.069 Calorimeter Equipment.~~

5 ~~(1) The utility shall maintain or have access to an approved~~
6 ~~type calorimeter located as specified in Rule 25-7.068(1).~~

7 ~~(2) The utility may use a standard recording calorimeter which~~
8 ~~shall be maintained in proper working order and shall be subjected~~
9 ~~to accuracy tests at least three times a year at four month~~
10 ~~intervals with a standard calorimeter or against a standard gas.~~

11 ~~(3) The calorimeter, method of testing, and accuracy tests~~
12 ~~shall be subject to inspection and approval of the Commission.~~

13 Specific Authority: 366.05(1), F.S.

14 Law Implemented: 366.05(3), F.S.

15 History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.69, Repealed

16 _____.

17 25-7.085 Customer Billing.

18 (1) Bills shall be rendered monthly. With the exception of
19 a duplicate bill, each customer's bill shall show at least the
20 following information:

21 (a) The meter reading and the date the meter was read plus
22 the meter reading for the previous period. When an electronic
23 meter is used, the gas volume consumed for the billing month may be
24 shown. If the gas consumption is estimated, the word "estimated"
25 shall prominently appear on the bill.

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1 (b) Therms and cubic feet consumed.

2 (c) The total dollar amount of the bill, indicating
3 separately:

4 1. Customer charge.

5 2. Energy (therm) charge exclusive of fuel cost in
6 cents per therm.

7 3. Fuel cost in cents per therm (no fuel costs shall
8 be included in the charge for energy).

9 4. Total gas cost which is the sum of the customer
10 charge, total fuel cost and total energy cost.

11 5. Franchise fees, if applicable.

12 6. Taxes, as applicable on purchases of gas by the
13 customer.

14 7. Any discount or penalty, if applicable.

15 8. Past due balances.

16 9. The gross and net billing, if applicable.

17 (d) Identification of the applicable rate schedule.

18 (e) The date by which payment must be made in order to
19 benefit from any discount or avoid any penalty, if applicable.

20 (f) The average daily therm consumption for the current
21 period and for the same period in the previous year, for the same
22 customer at the same location.

23 (g) The delinquent date or the date after which the bill
24 becomes past due.

25 (h) Any conversion factors which can be used by customers to

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1 convert from meter reading units to billing units.

2 (i) Where budget billing is used, the bill shall contain the
3 current month's consumption and charges separately from budgeted
4 amounts.

5 (j) The name of the utility plus the address and telephone
6 number of the local office where the bill can be paid and questions
7 concerning the bill can be answered.

8 (2) All gas utilities shall charge for gas service on a
9 thermal basis instead of on a volume basis. The provisions
10 governing customer billing on a thermal basis shall be as follows:

11 (a) The unit of service shall be the "Therm."

12 (b) The number of therms which shall have been taken by
13 consumer during a given period shall be determined by multiplying
14 the difference in the meter readings in cubic feet at the beginning
15 and end of the period by the conversion factors in (1) (h) including
16 a heating-value factor which has been determined as prescribed in
17 (c) below.

18 (c) The heating-value factor for gas utilities receiving and
19 distributing natural gas shall be the average thermal value of the
20 natural gas received and distributed during the preceding month.
21 ~~For manufactured gas utilities the heating value factor shall be~~
22 ~~the heating value standard which the utility has on file with the~~
23 ~~Commission, divided by 100,000, provided that during the calendar~~
24 ~~month nearest coinciding with the billing period the average~~
25 ~~heating value as determined under Rule 25 7.068(4) is at or above~~

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1 ~~that standard.~~ In case the average heating value during the
2 calendar month has been below the standard, then the value to be
3 used in determining the factor shall be the heating value standard
4 minus a deduction of one percent (1%) for each one percent (1%) or
5 fraction thereof that the average heating value has been below the
6 standard.

7 (d) The consumer shall be billed to the nearest one-tenth of
8 a therm.

9 (3) Whenever the period of service for which an initial or
10 opening bill would be rendered is less than the normal billing
11 period, no bill for that period need be rendered if the volume
12 amount consumed is carried over and included in the next regular
13 monthly billing. If, however, a bill for such period is rendered,
14 the applicable charges, including minimum charges, shall be
15 prorated.

16 (4) Franchise Fees.

17 (a) When a municipality charges a utility any franchise fee,
18 the utility may collect that fee only from its customers receiving
19 service within that municipality. When a county charges a utility
20 any franchise fee, the utility may collect that fee only from its
21 customers receiving service within that county.

22 (b) A company may not incorporate any franchise fee into its
23 other rates for service.

24 (c) This subsection shall not be construed as granting a
25 municipality or county the authority to charge a franchise fee.

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1 | This subsection only specifies the method of collection of a
2 | franchise fee, if a municipality or county, having authority to do
3 | so, charges a franchise fee.

4 | (5) When there is sufficient cause, estimated billings may be
5 | used by a utility provided that with the customer's third
6 | consecutive estimated billing the customer is informed of the
7 | reason for the estimation and whom to contact to obtain an actual
8 | meter reading if one is desired. An actual meter reading must be
9 | taken at least once every six months. If an estimated bill appears
10 | to be abnormal once an actual meter reading is obtained, the bill
11 | for the entire estimation period shall be computed at a rate based
12 | on use of service during the entire period and the estimated bill
13 | shall be deducted. If there is substantial evidence that such use
14 | occurred during only one billing period, the bill shall be
15 | computed.

16 | (6) Regular meter reading dates may be advanced or postponed
17 | not more than five days without a proration of the billing for the
18 | period.

19 | (7) The practices employed by each utility regarding customer
20 | billing shall have uniform application to all customers on the same
21 | rate schedule.

22 | Specific Authority: 366.05(1), F.S.

23 | Law Implemented: 366.05(1), 366.06(1), F.S.

24 | History: Amended 12/15/73, Repromulgated 1/8/75, amended 5/4/75,
25 | 11/21/82, 12/26/82, formerly 25-7.85, Amended 10/10/95,_____.

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