BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ORIGINAL

In re: Request for Rate Increase
by Gulf Power Company
______________________________/

Docket No. 010949-EI

Motion of Federal Executive Agencies for Judicial Notice

1. Comes now the Federal Executive Agencies, a party to this proceeding pursuant to petition for intervention previously granted by this Commission, and files this motion requesting the commission to take notice of and admit into the record in this proceeding, the attached materials, consisting of 19 pages, which are a true and accurate excerpt from the "Electric Utility Cost Allocation Manual" published by the "National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners" and bearing a revision date of January, 1992. Said extract consists of the Manual's cover pages, table of contents, preface, and Chapter 6 of said manual, entitled "Classification and Allocation of Distribution Plant," which Chapter 6 goes from page 86 to page 99, inclusive, of said Manual.

2. In support of this motion, the Federal Executive Agencies represent to the Commission that the existence and contents of the above referenced Manual are widely recognized throughout the electric utility industry and the electric utility regulatory community in this nation, and the contents of said manual are generally known to and not

a surprise to any party to this proceeding, and that admission of the attached materials into the record will not unfairly prejudice any party to this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted this Feb. 22, 2002.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copy of this Motion for Judicial Notice has been served by Federal Express, and by electronic mail (e-mail) (e-mail being without the attachment) this Feb. 22, 2002, to the following:

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ELECTRIC UTILITY COST ALLOCATION MANUAL

January, 1992

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ELECTRIC UTILITY COST ALLOCATION MANUAL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGULATORY UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

January, 1992

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PREFACE

This project was jointly assigned to the NARUC Staff Subcommittees on Electricity and Economics in February, 1985. Jack Doran, at the California PUC had led a task force in 1969 that wrote the original **Cost Allocation Manual**; the famous "Green Book". I was asked to put together a task force to revise it and include a Marginal Cost section.

I knew little about the subject and was not sure what I was getting into so I asked Jack how he had gone about drafting the first book. "Oh" he said, "There wasn't much to it. We each wrote a chapter and then exchanged them and rewrote them." What Jack did not tell me was that like most NARUC projects, the work was done after five o'clock and on weekends because the regular work always takes precedence. It is a good thing we did not realize how big a task we were tackling or we might never have started.

There was great interest in the project so when I asked for volunteers, I got plenty. We split into two working groups; embedded cost and marginal cost. Joe Jenkins from the Florida PSC headed up the Embedded Cost Working Group and Sarah Voll from the New Hampshire PUC took the Marginal Cost Working Group. We followed Jack's suggestions but, right from the beginning, we realized that once the chapters were technically correct, we would need a single editor to cast them all "into one hand" as Joe Jenkins put it. Steven Mintz from the Department of Energy volunteered for this task and has devoted tremendous effort to polishing the book into the final product you hold in your hands. Victoria Jow at the California PUC took Steven's final draft and desktop published the entire document using Ventura Publisher.

We set the following objectives for the manual:

- It should be simple enough to be used as a primer on the subject for new employees yet offer enough substance for experienced witnesses.
- It must be comprehensive yet fit in one volume.
- The writing style should be non-judgmental; not advocating any one particular method but trying to include all currently used methods with pros and cons.

It is with extreme gratitude that I acknowledge the energy and dedication contributed by the following task force members over the last five years.

Steven Mintz, Department of Energy, Editor; Joe Jenkins, Florida PSC, Leader, Embedded Cost Working Group; Sarah Voll, New Hampshire PUC, Leader, Marginal Cost Working Group; Victoria Jow, California PUC; John A. Anderson, ELCON; Jess Galura, Sacramento MUD; Chris Danforth, California PUC; Alfred Escamilla, Southern California Edison; Byron Harris, West Virginia CAD; Steve Houle, Texas Utility Electric Co.; Kevin Kelly, formally NRRI; Larry Klapow California PUC; Jim Ketter P.E., Missouri PSC; Ed Lucero, Price Waterhouse; J. Robert Malko, Utah State University; George McCluskey, New Hampshire PUC; Marge Meeter, Florida PSC; Gordon Murdock, The FERC; Dennis Nightingale, North Carolina UC; John Orecchio, The FERC; Carl Silsbee, Southern California Edison; Ben Turner, North Carolina UC; Dr. George Parkins, Colorado PUC; Warren Wendling, Colorado PUC; Schef Wright, formally Florida PSC; **IN MEMORIAL** Bob Kennedy Jr., Arkansas PSC.

Julian Ajello
California PUC

CHAPTER 6

CLASSIFICATION AND ALLOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION PLANT

Distribution plant equipment reduces high-voltage energy from the transmission system to lower voltages, delivers it to the customer and monitors the amounts of energy used by the customer.

Distribution facilities provide service at two voltage levels: primary and secondary. Primary voltages exist between the substation power transformer and smaller line transformers at the customer's points of service. These voltages vary from system to system and usually range between 480 volts to 35 KV. In the last few years, advances in equipment and cable technology have permitted the use of higher primary distribution voltages. Primary voltages are reduced to more usable secondary voltages by smaller line transformers installed at customer locations along the primary distribution circuit. However, some large industrial customers may choose to install their own line transformers and take service at primary voltages because of their large electrical requirements.

In some cases, the utility may choose to install a transformer for the exclusive use of a single commercial or industrial customer. On the other hand, in service areas with high customer density, such as housing tracts, a line transformer will be installed to serve many customers. In this case, secondary voltage lines run from pole-to-pole or from handhole-to-handhole, and each customer is served by a drop tapped off the secondary line leading directly to the customer's premise.

I. COST ACCOUNTING FOR DISTRIBUTION PLANT AND EXPENSES

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Uniform System of Accounts requires separate accounts for distribution investment and expenses. Distribution plant accounts are summarized and classified in Table 6-1. Distribution expense accounts are summarized and classified in Table 6-2. Some utilities may choose to establish subaccounts for more detailed cost reporting.

TABLE 6-1

CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION PLANT[1]

FERC Uniform System of Accounts No.	Description	Demand Related	Customer Related
	Distribution Plant [2]		
360	Land & Land Rights	X	X
361	Structures & Improvements	X	X
362	Station Equipment	X	-
363	Storage Battery Equipment	X	-
364	Poles, Towers, & Fixtures	X	X
365	Overhead Conductors & Devices	X	X
366	Underground Conduit	X	X
367	Underground Conductors & Devices	X	X
368	Line Transformers	X	X
369	Services	-	X
370	Meters	-	X
371	Installations on Customer Premises	-	X
372	Leased Property on Customer Premises	-	X
373	Street Lighting & Signal Systems [1]	-	-

[1]Assignment or "exclusive use" costs are assigned directly to the customer class or group which exclusively uses such facilities. The remaining costs are then classified to the respective cost components.

[2]The amounts between classification may vary considerably. A study of the minimum intercept method or other appropriate methods should be made to determine the relationships between the demand and customer components.

TABLE 6-2

CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTION EXPENSES[1]

FERC Uniform System of Accounts No.	Description	Demand Related	Customer Related
	Operation [2]		
580	Operation Supervision & Engineering	X	X
581	Load Dispatching	X	-
582	Station Expenses	X	-
583	Overhead Line Expenses	X	X
584	Underground Line Expenses	X	X
585	Street Lighting & Signal System Expenses [1]	-	-
586	Meter Expenses	-	X
587	Customer Installation Expenses	-	X
588	Miscellaneous Distribution Expenses	X	X
589	Rents	X	X
	Maintenance [2]		
590	Maintenance Supervision & Engineering	X	X
591	Maintenance of Structures	X	X
592	Maintenance of Station Equipment	X	-
593	Maintenance of Overhead Lines	X	X
594	Maintenance of Underground Lines	X	X
595	Maintenance of Line Transformers	X	X
596	Maint. of Street Lighting & Signal Systems [1]	-	-
597	Maintenance of Meters	-	X
598	Maint. of Miscellaneous Distribution Plants	X	X

[1]Direct assignment or "exclusive use" costs are assigned directly to the customer class or group which exclusively uses such facilities. The remaining costs are then classified to the respective cost components.

[2]The amounts between classifications may vary considerably. A study of the minimum intercept method or other appropriate methods should be made to determine the relationships between the demand and customer components.

To ensure that costs are properly allocated, the analyst must first classify each account as demand-related, customer-related, or a combination of both. The classification depends upon the analyst's evaluation of how the costs in these accounts were incurred. In making this determination, supporting data may be more important than theoretical considerations.

Allocating costs to the appropriate groups in a cost study requires a special analysis of the nature of distribution plant and expenses. This will ensure that costs are assigned to the correct functional groups for classification and allocation. As indicated in Chapter 4, all costs of service can be identified as energy-related, demand-related, or customer-related. Because there is no energy component of distribution-related costs, we need consider only the demand and customer components.

To recognize voltage level and use of facilities in the functionalization of distribution costs, distribution line costs must be separated into overhead and underground, and primary and secondary voltage classifications. A typical functionalization and classification of distribution plant would appear as follows:

Substations:	Demand
Distribution:	Overhead Primary
	Demand
	Customer
	Overhead Secondary
	Demand
	Customer
	Underground Primary
	Demand
	Customer
	Underground Secondary
	Demand
	Customer
	Line Transformers
	Demand
	Customer
Services:	Overhead
	Demand
	Customer
	Underground
	Demand
	Customer
Meters:	Customer
Street Lighting:	Customer
Customer Accounting:	Customer
Sales:	Customer

From this breakdown it can be seen that each distribution account must be analyzed before it can be assigned to the appropriate functional category. Also, these accounts must be classified as demand-related, customer-related, or both. Some utilities assign distribution to customer-related expenses. Variations in the demands of various customer groups are used to develop the weighting factors for allocating costs to the appropriate group.

II. DEMAND AND CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS OF DISTRIBUTION PLANT ACCOUNTS

When the utility installs distribution plant to provide service to a customer and to meet the individual customer's peak demand requirements, the utility must classify distribution plant data separately into demand- and customer-related costs.

Classifying distribution plant as a demand cost assigns investment of that plant to a customer or group of customers based upon its contribution to some total peak load. The reason is that costs are incurred to serve area load, rather than a specific number of customers.

Distribution substations costs (which include Accounts 360 -Land and Land Rights, 361 - Structures and Improvements, and 362 -Station Equipment), are normally classified as demand-related. This classification is adopted because substations are normally built to serve a particular load and their size is not affected by the number of customers to be served.

Distribution plant Accounts 364 through 370 involve demand and customer costs. The customer component of distribution facilities is that portion of costs which varies with the number of customers. Thus, the number of poles, conductors, transformers, services, and meters are directly related to the number of customers on the utility's system. As shown in Table 6-1, each primary plant account can be separately classified into a demand and customer component. Two methods are used to determine the demand and customer components of distribution facilities. They are, the minimum-size-of-facilities method, and the minimum-intercept cost (zero-intercept or positive-intercept cost, as applicable) of facilities.

A. The Minimum-Size Method

Classifying distribution plant with the minimum-size method assumes that a minimum size distribution system can be built to serve the minimum loading requirements of the customer. The minimum-size method involves determining the minimum size pole, conductor, cable, transformer, and service that is currently installed by the utility. Normally, the average book cost for each piece of equipment determines the price of all installed units. Once determined for each primary plant account, the minimum size distribution system is classified as customer-related costs. The demand-related costs for each account are the difference between the total investment in the account and customer-related costs. Comparative studies between the minimum-size and other methods show that it generally produces a larger customer component than the zero-intercept method (to be discussed). The following describes the methodologies for determining the minimum size for distribution plant Accounts 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, and 369.

1. **Account 364 - Poles, Towers, and Fixtures**

   - Determine the average installed book cost of the minimum height pole currently being installed.
   - Multiply the average book cost by the number of poles to find the customer component. Balance of plant account is the demand component.

2. **Account 365 - Overhead Conductors and Devices**

   - Determine minimum size conductor currently being installed.
   - Multiply average installed book cost per mile of minimum size conductor by the number of circuit miles to determine the customer component. Balance of plant account is demand component. (Note: two conductors in minimum system.)

3. **Accounts 366 and 367 - Underground Conduits, Conductors, and Devices**

   - Determine minimum size cable currently being installed.
   - Multiply average installed book cost per mile of minimum size cable by the circuit miles to determine the customer component. Balance of plant Account 367 is demand component. (Note: one cable with ground sheath is minimum system.) Account 366 conduit is assigned, basedon ratio of cable account.
   - Multiply average installed book cost of minimum size transformer by number of transformers in plant account to determine the customer component. Balance of plant account is demand component.

4. **Account 368 - Line Transformers**

   - Determine minimum size transformer currently being installed.

- Multiply average installed book cost of minimum size transformer by number of transformers in plant account to determine the customer component.

5. Account 369 - Services

- Determine minimum size and average length of services currently being installed.
- Estimate cost of minimum size service and multiply by number of services to get customer component.
- If overhead and underground services are booked separately, they should be handled separately. Most companies do not book service by size. This requires an engineering estimate of the cost of the minimum size, average length service. The resultant estimate is usually higher than the average book cost. In addition, the estimate should be adjusted for the average age of service, using a trend factor.

B. The Minimum-Intercept Method

The minimum-intercept method seeks to identify that portion of plant related to a hypothetical no-load or zero-intercept situation. This requires considerably more data and calculation than the minimum-size method. In most instances, it is more accurate, although the differences may be relatively small. The technique is to relate installed cost to current carrying capacity or demand rating, create a curve for various sizes of the equipment involved, using regression techniques, and extend the curve to a no-load intercept. The cost related to the zero-intercept is the customer component. The following describes the methodologies for determining the minimum intercept for distribution-plant Accounts 364, 365, 366, 367, and 368.

1. Account 364 - Poles, Towers, and Fixtures

- Determine the number, investment, and average installed book cost of distribution poles by height and class of pole. (Exclude stubs for guying.)
- Determine minimum intercept of pole cost by creating a regression equation, relating classes and heights of poles, and using the Class 7 cost intercept for each pole of equal height weighted by the number of poles in each height category.
- Multiply minimum intercept cost by total number of distribution poles to get customer component.

- Balance of pole investment is assigned to demand component.

- Total account dollars are assigned based on ratio of pole investment. (Transformer platforms in Account 364 are all demand-related. They should be removed before determining the account ratio of customer- and demand-related costs, and then they should be added to the demand portion of Account 364.)

2. Account 365 - Overhead Conductors and Devices

- If accounts are divided between primary and secondary voltages, develop a customer component separately for each. The total investment is assigned to primary and secondary; then the customer component is developed for each. Since conductors generally are of many types and sizes, select those sizes and types which represent the bulk of the investment in this account, if appropriate.

- When developing the customer component, consider only the investment in conductors, and not such devices as circuit breakers, insulators, switches, etc. The investment in these devices will be assigned later between the customer and demand component, based on the conductor assignment.

  - Determine the feet, investment, and average installed book cost per foot for distribution conductors by size and type.

  - Determine minimum intercept of conductor cost per foot using cost per foot by size and type of conductor weighted by feet or investment in each category, and developing a cost for the utility's minimum size conductor.

  - Multiply minimum intercept cost by the total number of circuit feet times 2. (Note that circuit feet, not conductor feet, are used to get customer component.)

  - Balance of conductor investment is assigned to demand.

  - Total primary or secondary dollars in the account, including devices, are assigned to customer and demand components based on conductor investment ratio.

3. Accounts 366 and 367 - Underground Conduits, Conductors, and Devices

- The customer demand component ratio is developed for conductors and applied to conduits. Underground conductors are generally booked by type and size of conductor for both one-conductor (I/c) cable and three-conductor (3/c) cables. If conductors are booked by voltage, as between primary and secondary, a customer component is developed for each. If network and URD investments are segregated, a customer component must be developed for each.

- The conductor sizes and types for the customer component derivation are restricted to I/c cable. Since there are generally many types and sizes of I/c cable, select those sizes and types which represent the bulk of the investment, when appropriate.

  - Determine the feet, investment, and average installed book cost per foot for I/c cables by size and type of cable.

  - Determine minimum intercept of cable cost per foot using cost per foot by size and type of cable weighted by feet of investment in each category.

  - Multiply minimum intercept cost by the total number of circuit feet (I/c cable with sheath is considered a circuit) to get customer component.

  - Balance of cable investment is assigned to demand.

  - Total dollars in Accounts 366 and 367 are assigned to customer and demand components based on conductor investment ratio.

4. Account 368 - Line Transformers

- The line transformer account covers all sizes and voltages for single- and three-phase transformers. Only single-phase sizes up to and including 50 KVA should be used in developing the customer components. Where more than one primary distribution voltage is used, it may be appropriate to use the transformer price from one or two predominant, selected voltages.

  - Determine the number, investment, and average installed book cost per transformer by size and type (voltage).

  - Determine zero intercept of transformer cost using cost per transformer by type, weighted by number for each category.

  - Multiply zero intercept cost by total number of line transformers to get customer component.

  - Balance of transformer investment is assigned to demand component.

  - Total dollars in the account are assigned to customer and demand components based on transformer investment ratio from customer and demand components.

C. The Minimum-System vs. Minimum-Intercept Approach

When selecting a method to classify distribution costs into demand and customer costs, the analyst must consider several factors. The minimum-intercept method can sometimes produce statistically unreliable results. The extension of the regression equation beyond the boundaries of the data normally will intercept the Y axis at a positive value. In some cases, because of incorrect accounting data or some other abnormality in the data, the regression equation will intercept the Y axis at a negative value. When this happens, a review of the accounting data must be made, and suspect data deleted.

The results of the minimum-size method can be influenced by several factors. The analyst must determine the minimum size for each piece of equipment: "Should the minimum size be based upon the minimum size equipment currently installed, historically installed, or the minimum size necessary to meet safety requirements?" The manner in which the minimum size equipment is selected will directly affect the percentage of costs that are classified as demand and customer costs.

Cost analysts disagree on how much of the demand costs should be allocated to customers when the minimum-size distribution method is used to classify distribution plant. When using this distribution method, the analyst must be aware that the minimum-size distribution equipment has a certain load-carrying capability, which can be viewed as a demand-related cost.

When allocating distribution costs determined by the minimum-size method, some cost analysts will argue that some customer classes can receive a disproportionate share of demand costs. Their rationale is that customers are allocated a share of distribution costs classified as demand-related. Then those customers receive a second layer of demand costs that have been mislabeled customer costs because the minimum-size method was used to classify those costs.

Advocates of the minimum-intercept method contend that this problem does not exist when using their method. The reason is that the customer cost derived from the minimum-intercept method is based upon the zero-load intercept of the cost curve. Thus, the customer cost of a particular piece of equipment has no demand cost in it whatsoever.

D. Other Accounts

The preceding discussion of the merits of minimum-system versus the zero-intercept classification schemes will affect the major distribution-plant accounts for FERC Accounts 364 through 368. Several other plant accounts remain to be classified. While the classification of the following distribution-plant accounts is an important step, it is not as controversial as the classification of substations, poles, transformers, and conductors.

1. Account 369 - Services

This account is generally classified as customer-related. Classification of services may also include a demand component to reflect the fact that larger customers will require more costly service drops.

2. Account 370 - Meters

Meters are generally classified on a customer basis. However, they may also be classified using a demand component to show that larger-usage customers require more expensive metering equipment.

3. Account 371 - Installations on Customer Premises

This account is generally classified as customer-related and is often directly assigned. The kind of equipment in this account often influences how this account is treated. The equipment in this account is owned by the utility, but is located on the customer's side of the meter. A utility will often include area lighting equipment in this account and assign the investment directly to the lighting customer class.

4. Account 373 - Street Lighting and Signal Systems

This account is generally customer-related and is directly assigned to the street customer class.

III. ALLOCATION OF THE DEMAND AND CUSTOMER COMPONENTS OF DISTRIBUTION PLANT

After completing the classification of distribution plant accounts, the next major step in the cost of service process is to allocate the classified costs. Generally, determining the distribution-demand allocator will require more data and analysis than determining the customer allocators. Following are procedures used to calculate the demand and customer allocation factors.

A. Development of the Distribution Demand Allocators

There are several factors to consider when allocating the demand components of distribution plant. Distribution facilities, from a design and operational perspective, are installed primarily to meet localized area loads. Distribution substations are designed to meet the maximum load from the distribution feeders emanating from the substation.

Similarly, when designing primary and secondary distribution feeders, the distribution engineer ensures that sufficient conductor and transformer capacity is available to meet the customer's loads at the primary- and secondary-distribution service levels. Local area loads are the major factors in sizing distribution equipment. Consequently, customer-class noncoincident demands (NCPs) and individual customer maximum demands are the load characteristics that are normally used to allocate the demand component of distribution facilities. The customer-class load characteristic used to allocate the demand component of distribution plant (whether customer class NCPs or the summation of individual customer maximum demands) depends on the load diversity that is present at the equipment to be allocated. The load diversity at distribution substations and primary feeders is usually high. For this reason, customer-class peaks are normally used for the allocation of these facilities. The facilities nearer the customer, such as secondary feeders and line transformers, have much lower load diversity. They are normally allocated according to the individual customer's maximum demands. Although these are the methods normally used for the allocation of distribution demand costs, some exceptions exist.

The load diversity differences for some utilities at the transmission and distribution substation levels may not be large. Consequently, some large distribution substations may be allocated using the same method as the transmission system. Before the cost analyst selects a method to allocate the different levels of distribution facilities, he must know the design and operational characteristics of the distribution system, as well as the demand losses at each level of the distribution system.

As previously indicated, the distribution system consists of several levels. The first level starts at the distribution substation, and the last level ends at the customer's meters. Power losses occur at each level and should be included in the demand allocators. Power losses are incorporated into the demand allocators by showing different demand loss factors at each predominant voltage level. The demand loss factor used to develop the primary-distribution demand allocator will be slightly larger than the demand loss factor used to develop the secondary demand allocator. When developing the distribution demand allocator, be aware that some customers take service at different voltage levels.

Cost analysts developing the allocator for distribution of substations or primary demand facilities must ensure that only the loads of those customers who benefit from these facilities are included in the allocator. For example, the loads of customers who take service at transmission level should not be reflected in the distribution substation or primary demand allocator. Similarly, when analysts develop the allocator for secondary demand facilities, the loads for customers served by the primary distribution system should not be included.

Utilities can gather load data to develop demand allocators, either through their load research program or their transformer load management program. In most cases, the load research program gathers data from meters on the customers' premises. A more complex procedure is to use the transformer load management program.

This procedure involves simulating load profiles for the various classes of equipment on the distribution system. This provides information on the nature of the load diversity between the customer and the substation, and its effect on equipment cost. Determining demand allocators through simulation provides a first-order load approximation, which represents the peak load for each type of distribution equipment.

The concept of peak load or "equipment peak" for each piece of distribution equipment can be understood by considering line transformers. If a given transformer's loading for each hour of a month can be calculated, a transformer load curve can be developed. By knowing the types of customers connected to each load management transformer, a simulated transformer load profile curve can be developed for the system. This can provide each customer's class demand at the time of the transformer's peak load. Similarly, an equipment peak can be defined for equipment at each level of the distribution system. Although the equipment peak obtained by this method may not be ideal, it will closely approximate the actual peak. Thus, this method should reflect the different load diversities among customers at each level of the distribution system. An illustration of the simulation procedure is provided in Appendix 6-A.

B. Allocation of Customer-Related Costs

When the demand-customer classification has been completed, most of the assumptions will have been made that affect the results of the completed cost of service study.

The allocation of the customer-related portion of the various plant accounts is based on the number of customers by classes of service, with appropriate weightings and adjustments. Weighting factors reflect differences in characteristics of customers within a given class, or between classes. Within a class, for instance, we may want to give more weighting of a certain plant account to rural customers, as compared to urban customers. The metering account is a clear example of an account requiring weighting for differences between classes. A metering arrangement for a single industrial customer may be 20 to 80 times as costly as the metering for one residential customer.

While customer allocation factors should be weighted to offset differences among various types of customers, highly refined weighting factors or detailed and time consuming studies may not seem worthwhile. Such factors applied in this final step of the cost study may affect the final results much less than such basic assumptions as the demand-allocation method or the technique for determining demand-customer classifications.

Expense allocations generally are based on the comparable plant allocator of the various classes. For instance, maintenance of overhead lines is generally assumed to be directly related to plant in overhead conductors and devices. Exceptions to this rule will occur in some accounts. Meter expenses, for example, are often a function of maintenance and testing schedules related more to revenue per customer than to the cost of the meters themselves.