RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE

RULE 9. CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

A. DEPOSIT REQUIREMENTS

(1) REGULAR CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATION Each utility may require from any customer or prospective customer a cash deposit to guarantee the payment of any such bills due or which may become due from such customer and safe return of all property belonging to the utility installed at the customer's premises or elsewhere. Such required deposit shall not exceed an amount equivalent to a single estimated average bill in the case of residential customers and two estimated maximum bills for any other customers; provided, however, for all utilities as defined in 77-3-3(d)(3) of the Mississippi Code of 1972, the required deposit shall not exceed the average final bill of customers with similar class and type of service. Each utility may require a reasonable deposit to guarantee safe return of personal property placed in the possession of the customer.*

(2) SPECIAL CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATION Upon request, each utility shall refund the Cash Deposit collected from a residential customer or waive any requirement of Cash Deposit from a residential customer when such person meets the following specific criteria:

(a) Presents satisfactory proof that his or her age is sixty (60) years or more. A birth certificate shall be considered satisfactory proof of age.

(b) indicates that he or she is a primary user of the utility service and subscribed for such service in his or her own name.

(c) Affirms responsibility for the payment of bills for the utility.

(d) Has demonstrated a reasonable payment pattern by having had no balance carried forward from one month's bill to the next during the prior twelve month period. In the event that such deposit has been refunded or waived and the customer's payment pattern changes from the foregoing to one of greater frequency of past due bills or bills with prior balances, customers will be required to restore the deposit so refunded or waived plus any additional amount required to guarantee payment up to the limits set forth in paragraph (1) above.**

(3) PAYMENT OF DEPOSITS Residential customers may negotiate monthly installments for initial service deposits in excess of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) provided that the entire amount of the deposit is paid within 60 days.

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