

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Proposed Repeal of Rule ) DOCKET NO. 960169-GU  
25-7.067, F.A.C., Heating Value ) ORDER NO. PSC-96-0771-FOF-GU  
Standard for Manufactured Gas; ) ISSUED: June 17, 1996  
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 )

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The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

SUSAN F. CLARK, Chairman  
J. TERRY DEASON  
JOE GARCIA  
JULIA L. JOHNSON  
DIANE K. KIESLING

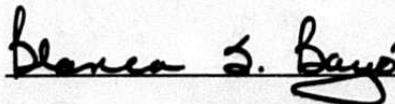
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RULES

NOTICE is hereby given that the Florida Public Service Commission, pursuant to Section 120.54, Florida Statutes, has repealed Rules 25-7.067, 25-7.068, and 25-7.069, and adopted an amendment to Rule 25-7.085(2)(c), Florida Administrative Code, relating to gas utilities, without change.

The rules were filed with the Department of State on June 13, 1996 and will be effective on July 3, 1996. A copy of the rule as filed with the Secretary of State is attached to this Notice.

This docket is closed upon issuance of this notice.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission, this 17th day of June, 1996.



BLANCA S. BAYÓ, Director  
Division of Records and Reporting

( S E A L )

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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FPSC-RECORDS/REPORTING

25-7.067 Heating Value Standard for Manufactured Gas.

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

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

History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.67, Repealed  
7/3/96.

25-7.068 Heating Value Tests.

Specific Authority: 366.05, F.S.

Law Implemented: 366.05, F.S.

History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.68, Repealed  
7/3/96.

25-7.069 Calorimeter Equipment.

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

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

History: Repromulgated 1/8/75, 5/4/75, formerly 25-7.69, Repealed  
7/3/96.

25-7.085 Customer Billing.

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

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

(b) Therms and cubic feet consumed.

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

1. Customer charge.
2. Energy (therm) charge exclusive of fuel cost in cents per therm.
3. Fuel cost in cents per therm (no fuel costs shall be included in the charge for energy).
4. Total gas cost which is the sum of the customer charge, total fuel cost and total energy cost.
5. Franchise fees, if applicable.
6. Taxes, as applicable on purchases of gas by the customer.
7. Any discount or penalty, if applicable.
8. Past due balances.
9. The gross and net billing, if applicable.

(d) Identification of the applicable rate schedule.

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

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

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

(h) Any conversion factors which can be used by customers to convert from meter reading units to billing units.

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

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

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

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

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

(c) The heating-value factor for gas utilities receiving and distributing natural gas shall be the average thermal value of the natural gas received and distributed during the preceding month. ~~For manufactured gas utilities the heating value factor shall be the heating value standard which the utility has on file with the Commission, divided by 100,000; provided that during the calendar~~

~~month nearest coinciding with the billing period the average heating value as determined under Rule 25 7.068(4) is at or above that standard.~~ In case the average heating value during the calendar month has been below the standard, then the value to be used in determining the factor shall be the heating value standard minus a deduction of one percent (1%) for each one percent (1%) or fraction thereof that the average heating value has been below the standard.

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

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

(4) Franchise Fees.

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

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

(c) This subsection shall not be construed as granting a municipality or county the authority to charge a franchise fee. This subsection only specifies the method of collection of a franchise fee, if a municipality or county, having authority to do so, charges a franchise fee.

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

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

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

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

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

History: Amended 12/15/73, Repromulgated 1/8/75, amended 5/4/75, 11/21/82, 12/26/82, formerly 25-7.85, Amended 10/10/95, 7/3/96.