

Rule No. 11  
DISCONTINUANCE AND RESTORATION OF SERVICE

A. Past Due Bills. When bills are rendered monthly or bimonthly, they will be considered past due if not paid within 19 days after date of presentation.

B. Nonpayment of Bills.

1. When a bill for electric service has become past due and a 15-day discontinuance of domestic service notice or a 5-day discontinuance of nondomestic service notice for nonpayment has been issued, service may be discontinued if bill is not paid within the time required by such notice. A customer's service, however, will not be discontinued for nonpayment until the amount of any deposit made to establish credit for that service has been fully absorbed.

Any customer who has initiated a complaint or requested an investigation within 5 days of receiving a contested bill shall not have domestic service to a residential dwelling discontinued for nonpayment during the pendency of an investigation by the Company of such customer dispute or complaint. Such domestic service shall not be discontinued for nonpayment for any customer complying with an amortization agreement entered into with the Company, provided the customer also keeps current his account for electric service as charges accrue in each subsequent billing period. If a customer fails to comply with an amortization agreement, the Company will give a 7-day discontinuance of service notice before discontinuing such domestic service, but such notice shall not entitle the customer to further investigation by the Company.

2. Electric service to a domestic customer will not be discontinued for non-payment when the customer has established to the satisfaction of the Company that:

- a. Such termination would be especially dangerous to the health of the customer or a full time resident of the customer's household\*; or
- b. The customer or a full time resident of the customer's household is among the elderly (age 62 or older) or handicapped\*; and
- c. He or she is temporarily unable to pay for such service in accordance with the provisions of the Company's tariffs; and
- d. The customer is willing to arrange installment payments, satisfactory to the Company, including arrangements for prompt payment of subsequent bills; or
- e. Customers that qualify for medical baseline and agrees to a 12-month payment plan; or
- f. The utility offers to enroll eligible customers in all applicable benefit programs administered by the utility; or
- g. Customers who are on a 12-month payment plan and is current on both monthly bills and the 12-month payment plan; or
- h. Customers that currently have a Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program pledge pending and if they agree to be placed on a 12-month payment plan for any remaining balance; or
- i. When temperatures above 100 degrees or below 32 degrees are forecasted based on a 72-hour look-ahead period.

(N)

(N)

\*Certification from a licensed physician, physician assistants, public health nurse, nurse practitioner, or a social worker may be required by the Company.

(T)

(Continued)

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B. Nonpayment of Bills. (Continued)

2. (Continued):

The Company shall make available to customers, upon request, information regarding agencies and/or organizations that may provide financial assistance.

However, service may be terminated to any customer who does not comply with an installment payment agreement or keep current his account for electric service as charges accrue in each subsequent billing period.

(D)

3. A customer's service may be discontinued for nonpayment of a bill for service previously rendered him at any location served by the Company provided such bill is not paid within 15 days after presentation of a domestic discontinuance of service notice or 5 days after presentation of a nondomestic discontinuance of service notice that present service will be discontinued for nonpayment of such bill for prior service, but in no case will service be discontinued for nonpayment of such bill within 15 days after establishment of service at the new location. However, domestic service will not be discontinued because of nonpayment of bills for other classes of service.
4. Where electric service is provided to residential users through a master meter, the Company shall make every good faith effort to inform the actual users of the electric service when the account is in arrears that service will be terminated in 10 days.
5. If a customer is receiving more than one service, any or all services may be discontinued when any service, regardless of location, is discontinued for nonpayment. However, domestic service will not be discontinued because of nonpayment of bills for other classes of service.
6. Service may not be discontinued for nonpayment of a bill to correct previously billed incorrect charges for a period in excess of three months for residential service or three years for nonresidential service, unless such incorrect charges have resulted from the customer not abiding by the filed rules, in which case the period for residential and nonresidential service shall be three years.

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B. Nonpayment of Bills. (Continued)

7. Service will not be discontinued by reason of delinquency in payment for electric service on any Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or at any time during which the business offices of the Company are not open to the public.

- C. Unsafe Equipment. The Company may refuse or discontinue service to a customer without further notice if any part of his wiring or other equipment, or the use thereof, shall be determined by the Company to be unsafe in violation of applicable laws, ordinances, rules or regulations of public authorities, or if any condition existing upon the customer's premises shall be thus determined to endanger the Company's service facilities, until it shall have been put in a safe condition or the violation remedied.

The Company does not assume any responsibility of inspecting or repairing the customer's wiring or other equipment or any part thereof and assumes no liability therefore.

- D. Service Detrimental to Other Customers. The Company will not provide service to utilizing equipment, the operation of which will be detrimental to the service of the Company or its other customers, and will discontinue electric service to any customer who shall continue to operate such equipment after having been given notice by the Company to cease so doing.
- E. Unauthorized Use. The Company may discontinue service if the acts of the customer or the conditions upon the customer's premises indicate an intent to deny the Company full compensation for services rendered, including, but not limited to, tampering or unauthorized use. Discontinuance of service for nonpayment of a bill for unauthorized use shall be in accordance with the provisions of Rule No. 11, B., Nonpayment of Bills.
- F. Failure to Establish or Re-establish Credit. If, for an applicant's convenience, the Company should provide service before credit is established and should continue service to a customer when credit has not been re-established or should continue service to a customer when credit has not been re-established in accordance with Rule No. 6, and he fails to establish or re-establish his credit as provided by a written notice of not less than 7 days for domestic service or 5 days for nondomestic service, the Company may discontinue service.

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- G. Noncompliance. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Rule No. 11, the Company may discontinue service to a customer for noncompliance with tariff schedules if, after written notice of at least 5 days, he has not complied with the notice. The Company may dispense with the giving of such notice in the event of a dangerous condition, thus rendering the immediate discontinuance of service to the premises imperative.
- H. Customer's Request for Service Discontinuance. When a customer desires to terminate his responsibility for service, he shall give the Utility not less than two days' notice of his intention and state the date on which he wishes the termination to become effective. A customer may be held responsible for all service furnished at the premises until two days after receipt of such notice by the Company or until the date of termination specified in the notice, whichever date is later.
- I. Limited Service Device. Where domestic service is subject to discontinuance in accordance with Section B or F above, the Company may, at its option and subject to availability of equipment, install a service limiting device in lieu of full discontinuance of service. The maximum time for providing such limited service shall be determined by the Company. The Company shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by the installation of a service limiting device or the provision of limited service.
- J. Restoration - Reconnection Charge (for other than domestic services) (T)  
The Company may require payment of a reconnection charge before restoring service that has been disconnected at the request of the customer or terminated for non-payment of bills or for failure otherwise to comply with tariff schedules. In case the customer requested that such service be reconnected within a 48 hour period and/or outside regular business hours an additional charge may be made. The charges for restoration or reconnection of service are set forth in Schedule SSC. Service wrongfully terminated shall be restored without charge for the restoration of service, and a notification thereof shall be mailed to the customer at the billing address.
- K. Inability to Pay. If upon receipt of a 15-day discontinuance of service notice, a domestic customer is unable to pay, he must first contact the Company within the discontinuance of service notice period to make special payment arrangements to avoid discontinuance of service.

After contacting the Company, if the domestic customer alleges to the Commission an inability to pay and that lawful payment arrangements have not been extended to him, he should write to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch (CAB) to make an informal complaint. It is the responsibility of the customer to timely inform CAB to avoid discontinuance of service. The Company shall not require a customer to deposit with the Commission the amount of the overdue bill in such a termination dispute

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K. Inability to Pay (Continued)

Within 10 business days after receiving the informal complaints, the CAB will report its proposed resolution to the Company and the customer by letter.

If the customer is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the CAB, he shall file within 10 business days after the date of the CAB letter a formal complaint with the Commission under Section 1702 on a form provided by the CAB. The complaint shall be processed under the expedited complaint procedure. Failure of the customer to observe these time limits shall entitle the Company to insist upon payment, or upon failure to pay, to discontinue the customer's service.

L. Vegetation Management

The Company may disconnect service to a customer or property owner who obstructs access to overhead power-line facilities for vegetation management activities, subject to the following conditions:

1. The authority to disconnect service to a customer is limited to situations where:
  - a. There is breach of the minimum vegetation clearances required for power lines in General Order (GO) 95, Rule 35, Table 1, Cases 13 and 14 under the provisions in effect at the time the breach is discovered.
  - b. In the High Fire-Threat District, as defined by GO 95, Rule 21.2 D, there is breach of the minimum vegetation clearances required for power lines and support structures in Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 4292 and 4293 for State Responsibility Areas.
  - c. In the High Fire-Threat District, the Company has obtained from an arborist a written determination that a dead rotten, diseased, leaning, or overhanging tree (or parts thereof) poses an imminent or immediate risk for falling onto, or otherwise contacting, a power line. The written determination shall provide one or more photographs of the tree and explain the basis for the arborist's determination. The arborist shall possess dual certification from the International Society of Agriculture as a Certified Master Arborist and a Certified Utility Specialist.

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- L. Vegetation Management (Continued) (T)
- An “imminent risk” as a risk that will, in the arborist’s professional judgement, very likely to be realized at any moment. An “immediate risk” is a risk that will, in the arborist’s professional judgement, certainly be realized at any moment.
2. The authority to disconnect service to a customer who obstructs vegetation management activities does not extend to customers that are state and local governments and agencies.
  3. The authority to disconnect service to a customer is limited to one meter serving the property owner’s primary residence, or if the property owner is a business entity, the entity’s primary place of business. This one meter is in addition to disconnecting service, if necessary for public safety, at the location of the vegetation-related fire hazard.
  4. Prior to disconnecting service, the Company shall follow the then current procedures and notice requirements applicable to discontinuance of service for-non-payment, including the requirements applicable for sensitive customers, customers who are not proficient in English, multifamily accommodations, and other customer groups, except as set forth in section 5 below.
    - a. To the extent practical, the applicable procedures and notice requirements shall be completed prior to a breach of the minimum vegetation clearances required by (i) GO 95, Rule 35, Table 1, Cases 13 and 14, and/or (ii) Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 4292 and 4293.
    - b. In situations that pertain to Section 1.c above, the notice shall include the arborist’s written determination and photographs provided to the Company.
  5. For vegetation hazards in Item 1, above, that pose an immediate threat to public safety, the Company may disconnect service to the obstructing property owner’s residence or primary place of business at any time without prior notice, except when the customer receives service under a medical baseline allowance. If service is disconnected without prior notice, the Company shall attempt to contact the property owner for five consecutive business days by daily visits to the property owner’s residence or primary place of business, in addition to sending a written notice, to inform the property owner why service has been disconnected and how to restore service. If the Company determines that it is necessary to disconnect service to a medical baseline customer, the Company shall attempt to notify the customer by telephone prior to the service disconnection.

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L. Vegetation Management (Continued)

6. Service Restoration

When a customer's service has been terminated because access to overhead electric facilities for vegetation management purposes has been obstructed, the customer's service will not be restored until appropriate vegetation management has been achieved or the vegetation hazard has been mitigated, and payment for all applicable restoration of service charges as provided in Section J have been received.