

13. Discontinuance of Service and Complaints - Residential Customers:
(Cont'd.)

A. Discontinuance of Service: (Cont'd.)

(4) Deferred Payment Agreement

Generally, the Company will offer any eligible residential customer or applicant a deferred payment agreement with specific terms as required by 16 NYCRR 11.10 which sets forth in detail the procedures summarized here. The agreement will be made in duplicate on the form set forth in Rule 25.5 of this tariff.

(a) Eligibility:

All residential customers and applicants are eligible for an agreement unless the customer has broken an existing payment agreement which required payment over a period at least as long as the standard agreement described below, or the Public Service Commission determines that the customer or applicant has the resources to pay the bill.

(b) Written Offers:

A specific written offer will be made to eligible customers before the date of any threatened termination of service, where payment of outstanding charges is a requirement for reconnection or acceptance of an application for service, and when a customer has broken an agreement that was for a shorter period than the standard agreement.

(c) Negotiating Agreements:

Before making a written offer, the Company will make a reasonable effort to contact eligible customers or applicants in order to negotiate agreement terms that are fair and equitable considering the customer's financial circumstances. The Company may, at its discretion, require the customer to complete a form showing his or her assets, income and expenses and provide reasonable substantiation of such information, and if it does so, shall treat all such information confidentially. The Company also may postpone a scheduled termination for up to 10 days for the purpose of negotiating an agreement.