..DID: 5128 ..TXT: PSC NO: 218 GAS LEAF: 84 COMPANY: NIAGARA MOHAWK POWER CORPORATION REVISION: 1 INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/25/98 SUPERSEDING REVISION: 0 STAMPS: Effective date postponed to 03/25/99. See Supplement No. 12 RECEIVED: 09/11/98 STATUS: Effective EFFECTIVE: 03/25/99 GENERAL INFORMATION 15. BILLING AND COLLECTIONS: (continued)

15.7.6.5 (continued)

c. If the customer becomes delinquent for the first time in any twelve month period, the Company will provide the customer with the opportunity to become current in payment prior to cancellation from the budget plan. The second, or subsequent, time delinquency occurs in any twelve month period, the Company shall cancel the budget plan and any deficiency shall be due and payable at once, including any late payment charges assessed.

d. If the customer has an active payment arrangement with the Company and defaults on the payment arrangement, both the budget and payment arrangement will be automatically canceled on the first month of the delinquency.

- 15.7.6.6 Quarterly Payment Plan Effective November 29, 1985, as required by Public Service Law S38, the company shall offer any residential customer, 62 years of age or older, a plan for payment on a quarterly basis of charges for service rendered, provided that such customer's average annual billing is not more than \$150.
- 15.8 Deferred Payment Agreements for Non-Residential Customers: 15.8.1 The Company will provide a written notice offering a deferred payment agreement in the following circumstances:

15.8.1.1 Not less than five calendar days before the date of the scheduled termination of service for nonpayment of arrears, as indicated on a final termination notice, or eight calendar days if mailed, provided the customer has been a customer for at least six months and the arrears on which the outstanding termination notice is based exceeds two months average billing.

15.8.1.2 When it renders a backbill which exceeds the cost of twice the customer's average monthly usage or \$100, whichever is greater; provided, however, that the Company shall not be required to offer an agreement when the customer knew, or reasonably should have known, that the original billing was incorrect.

15.8.2 If the Company and the customer agree to terms of a deferred payment agreement in a telephone conversation, the Company shall send the customer two fully completed copies of the agreement, signed by Company, for the customer to sign and return.

Issued By: <u>Albert J. Budney, Jr., President, Syracuse, New York</u>