

Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. 4 Irving Place
New York NY 10003-0987
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February 2, 2004

Honorable Jaclyn A. Brilling Secretary State of New York Public Service Commission Three Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223

Re: Case Nos. 98-M-1343, 99-M-0631 and 03-M-0017

Dear Secretary Brilling:

Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc. (the "Company") hereby submits for filing tariff leaves reflecting revisions to its Schedule for Gas Service, P.S.C. No. 4 – Gas (the "Gas tariff").¹

2nd Revised Leaf No. 33.22nd Revised Leaf No. 33.35th Revised Leaf No. 34

The foregoing tariff leaves filed electronically today are effective on February 3, 2004.

This filing is being made pursuant to the Commission's <u>Order on Petitions for Rehearing and Clarification</u> (the "December 5 Order"), issued and effective December 5, 2003, and the <u>Order Granting Extensions and Denying Petitions in Part</u> (the "December 19 Order"), issued and effective December 19, 2003, in Case Nos. 98-M-1343, 99-M-0631, and 03-M-0117, concerning retail access business rules, customer billing arrangements, and implementation of Chapter 686 of the Laws of 2002. Ordering Clause 1 of the December 19 Order directed each utility to file tariff revisions incorporating the Commission's requirements relating to proration of payments made toward consolidated bills, with such filing to take effect on February 3, 2004.²

¹ A separate filing is being made to make changes to the Company's Schedule for Electric Service, P.S.C. No. 2 – Electricity, effective February 3, 2004.

² An additional filing will be made, on no less than one day's notice, to take effect on February 19, 2004, as required by Ordering Clause 2 of the December 19 Order. That Ordering Clause directs each utility to file further revisions to its tariffs and operating procedures as necessary incorporating the Uniform Business Practices as adopted by the Commission's <u>Order Adopting Revised Uniform Business Practices</u> dated November 21, 2003, and as further amended by the December 5 Order, and making any changes necessary to implement the December 5 Order.

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Tariff Changes

Text was added to General Information Section No. 6.5 (2)(A), Customer Choice of Billing Option, of the Company's Gas tariff stating the following:

"For Utility Single Bills or Marketer Single Bills issued on or after February 3, 2004, customer payments shall be allocated and prorated in accordance with the Uniform Business Practices and with the Home Energy Fair Practices Act (Public Service Law, Article 2) and applicable orders of the Commission".

Under the Company's Utility Single Billing Service, the Company purchases the Marketer's receivable, without recourse. The Company therefore treats both its and the Marketer's receivable as a single receivable and will suspend their service at the same time and according to the same process as it follows in the disconnection of delivery service. Implicit in this arrangement is the proration of payments required by Home Energy Fair Practices Act and the proration and priority of payment requirements of Section 9.J. of the Uniform Business Practices.

Text has also been added to General Information Section No. 6.5 (2)(B), Utility Single Billing Service, clarifying that:

- a) a Marketer requesting that its charges be included on a Utility Single Bill must execute the Company's Consolidated Billing and Assignment Agreement;
- a Marketer will assign its rights to all amounts due from its retail customers to the Company in accordance with the Company's Consolidated Billing and Assignment Agreement; and
- c) the Company will collect and process customers' payments and perform collection activities in accordance with the Home Energy Fair Practices Act.

Conclusion

In compliance with Ordering Clause 1 of the December 19 Order, tariff changes are filed to become effective, on a temporary basis, on February 3, 2004. Ordering Clause 4 of the December 5 Order waived newspaper publication. A copy of this filing will be mailed by regular mail to all parties to Case Nos. 98-M-1343, 99-M-0631 and 03-M-0017.

Questions regarding this filing can be directed to me at (212) 460-3308.

Very truly yours,

William A. Atzl, Jr. Director – O&R Rates

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