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PROJECT NO. 50664

MAY 16 2020

ISSUES RELATED TO THE STATE OF §  
DISASTER FOR THE CORONAVIRUS §  
DISEASE 2019 §

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS

**THIRD ORDER DIRECTING CERTAIN ACTIONS AND GRANTING EXCEPTIONS TO CERTAIN RULES**

On March 13, 2020 pursuant to Texas Government Code § 418.014, in response to the growing threat of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Governor Greg Abbott issued a Declaration of State of Disaster for all counties in Texas. On April 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020, Governor Abbott renewed the disaster proclamation for all counties in Texas. Pursuant to 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §§ 25.480(j)(1)(B) and 25.498(i)(1)(B), the Commission on March 26, 2020 directed all retail electric providers to offer a deferred payment plan to customers, upon request. Through this Order, the Commission renews this directive to all retail electric providers.

Furthermore, on March 26, 2020 and April 17, 2020, under the authority found in 16 TAC § 22.5(a), the Commission found that there existed a public emergency and imperative public necessity that constitutes good cause for granting exceptions to certain rules. Good cause continues to exist for the below referenced rules, and the Commission through this Order renews the exception to the following rules until June 13, 2020 to the extent that these rules apply to residential customers:

- Water and Sewer Rules
  - 16 TAC § 24.167(a)(2)(A), which allows a retail public utility to disconnect water or sewer service for nonpayment of a residential customer.
  - 16 TAC §24.167(a)(2)(F), which authorizes a utility to disconnect water service for non-payment of a solid waste charge of a residential customer.
  - 16 TAC § 24.167(e), which requires a retail public utility to disconnect water service for nonpayment of sewer charges of a residential customer.
  
- Electric Rules
  - 16 TAC § 25.29(b)(1), which allows an electric utility to disconnect electric service of a residential customer for nonpayment.


These exceptions will best serve the public interest and will not prejudice the rights of any party.

Accordingly, the following is ordered:

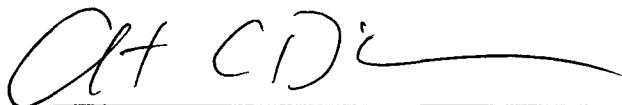
1. All retail electric providers must continue to offer a deferred payment plan to customers, upon request during the state of disaster declared by Governor Abbott.
2. Until June 13, 2020, exceptions are granted to the following water and sewer rules to the extent that these rules apply to residential customers: 16 TAC § 24.167(a)(2)(A), which allows a retail public utility to disconnect water or sewer service for nonpayment of a residential customer; 16 TAC §24.167(a)(2)(F), which authorizes a utility to disconnect water service for non-payment of a solid waste charge of a residential customer; and 16 TAC § 24.167(e), which requires a retail public utility to disconnect water service for nonpayment of sewer charges of a residential customer.
3. Until June 13, 2020, exceptions are granted to the following electric rule to the extent that these rules apply to residential customers: 16 TAC § 25.29(b)(1), which allows an electric utility to disconnect electric service of a residential customer for nonpayment.

Signed at Austin, Texas the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020.

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS**



**DEANN T. WALKER, CHAIRMAN**



**ARTHUR C. D'ANDREA, COMMISSIONER**



**SHELLY BOTKIN, COMMISSIONER**