## GENERAL INFORMATION

4. Billing and Collections: (Cont'd.)
P. Budget Billing:
(1) Residential
(a) The Company shall annually offer a budget payment plan to eligible customers. A customer may request to be billed in accordance with the following budget payment plan:

The customer's annual billing will be estimated at the applicable unit prices for estimated usage in the next 12 months. Each month for 12 months, commencing with the next monthly billing cycle, the customer will be billed a "budget" amount equal to $1 / 12$ of such estimated annual billing.

During the plan year the customer's actual use will be billed regularly as provided under the applicable service classification. If at the end of the 12 months the amount of budget billing is less than that corresponding to the amount resulting from the regular billing under the applicable service classification of the customer's actual usage, then the customer shall pay the deficiency as well as the stipulated monthly budget payment for the twelfth month billing cycle. If the amount of the budget billing is greater than such regular billing, the Company shall apply the excess as credit against future bills or will refund the excess paid.

In order to minimize the amount of over or under payment to be adjusted on the twelfth month bill, the Company shall, at the end of the third, sixth and ninth month, review the customer's plan balance and, based upon known and/or projected prices, adjustments, and usage, reestimate the remaining bills.

The Company shall also review the customer's plan balance if basic price, adjustment, or usage changes occur at other times during the plan year. Any of these reviews can result in mandatory revisions to the stipulated monthly payment.
(b) A new applicant or existing customer may initially apply for budget billing at any time, in which event the Company shall estimate the customer's bills for the remaining months in the plan and bill the estimated amount in equal payments through the plan settlement bill. Any difference between the amount billed and the amount that would have been billed for actual usage will be charged or credited to the budget settlement bill.

When a customer is also rendered gas service by the Company, the budget payment plan will apply to the total of both gas and electricity billings.

The actual bill for customers will be computed in accordance with the applicable service classification. The late payment charge for residential customers will be calculated at the rate of one and one-half percent ( $11 / 2 \%$ ) per month on all budget billed amounts not paid by the past due date indicated on the bill.

Issued by: James A. Lahtinen, Vice President - Rates \& Regulatory Economics, Binghamton, NY

