

SECTION 6
CREDIT

6.1 PAYMENT OBLIGATION

The provision of delivery service for any purpose, at any location, is contingent upon payment of all charges provided for in this Rate Schedule as applicable to the location and the character of service. Unless otherwise specifically provided in the rate, bills for service shall be net and shall be due and payable upon presentation.

6.2 AUTHORITY FOR REQUESTING DEPOSITS

The Company's requirement for requesting deposits from customers shall be governed by Maine Public Utilities Commission Rules, Chapter 815 – Consumer Protection Standards for Electric and Gas Transmission and Distribution Utilities, a copy of which is available at any business office of the Company.

6.3 AUTHORITY FOR REQUESTING DEPOSITS FROM NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

Cancelled.

6.4 INTEREST ON DEPOSIT

The Company will pay interest on all customer cash deposits at such rate and interval as specified by Maine Public Utilities Commission Rules, Chapter 870 - Late Payment Charges, Interest Rates to be Paid on Customer Deposits and Charges for Returned Checks, a copy of which is available at any business office of the Company. The Company will apply any newly specified rate to all deposit amounts on bills issued after the effective date of the new rate.

6.5 LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

Residential and nonresidential delivery service bills not paid within 25 days from the postmark date on the customer's bill shall be subject to a late payment charge on the unpaid balance at the maximum rate specified by the Maine Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Chapter 870 of the Commission's Rules. The Company will apply any newly specified rate to all overdue amounts billed after the effective date of the new rate. The late payment charge shall not apply to an amount overdue that is the sole result of the following:

- a) A budget payment plan (in which interest is paid on credit balances).

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6.5 LATE PAYMENT CHARGE (Continued)

- b) Payment arrangements entered into according to the winter period provisions of Chapter 815, of the Maine Public Utilities Commission Rules.

6.6 CHARGES FOR RETURNED PAYMENTS

If any payment given to the Company by a customer is dishonored, the Company will charge the customer \$12.00 for each account to which the payment has been applied.

6.7 PAYMENT OPTIONS

- a) Payment Agencies. The Company may institute a payment option whereby customers can pay amounts owed the Company at payment agencies. The Company or any vendor retained by the Company may charge a fee of \$1.00, effective March 1, 2004, to process any payments made at a payment agency. The customer must be informed of the specific amount of the fee prior to making the payment.
- b) Electronic Bill Payment. The Company may institute a program whereby customers may pay any amounts owed the Company for service by using a credit card, debit card, ACH (automated clearinghouse) or pre-authorized draft (collectively, electronic bill payment). As part of its electronic bill payment options, the Company may also offer an option whereby customers may elect to receive electronic bills instead of paper bills.

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