

NEW ALERT
MD PSC PROPOSED FINAL REGULATIONS
Extreme Weather Termination Restrictions

The Public Service Commission is proposing to make emergency regulations on extreme winter weather restrictions permanent. The emergency regulations are **effective through July 31, 2010**. The regulations prohibit service terminations in both hot and cold extreme weather conditions. The purpose is to protect residential ratepayers from service termination when dangerously cold or hot weather is likely in the immediate future. These regulations are a result of a 2009 law to extend extreme weather restrictions on service terminations.

The Commission has proposed final regulations which were published in the Maryland Register on April 23, 2010. Written comments may be submitted to the PSC on or before **May 25, 2010**. The PSC will hold a rulemaking session on **Tuesday, June 8, 2010** at 10 a.m. to consider whether to finally adopt the proposed regulations

The proposed regulations are the same as the emergency regulations, and would prohibit terminations of both gas and electric service on any day for which the weather forecast made at 6:00 a.m. has a high temperature of 32 degrees or lower in winter. In summer months, this restriction would apply to all electric service and gas service (if used for cooling and the utility is on notice) if the temperature forecast at 6 a.m. is for 95 degrees or higher in summer, during the next three days. For example, if on Monday morning the forecast calls for a high of 90 degrees on Monday, but 97 degrees on Tuesday, terminations are prohibited for Monday. On Tuesday morning, the companies must check the forecasts for the next three days again. If the forecasted high is still 95 or higher on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, terminations are prohibited on Tuesday. If however, the forecast has changed and the high temperature forecast is below 95 for each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, then the companies are permitted to terminate service that day.

Written comments must be sent to the PSC:

Terry J. Romine, Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission of Maryland
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

The text of the proposed regulations is available in the March 12, 2010 and April 23, 2010 editions of the Maryland Register at www.dsd.state.md.us/MDRegister/mdregister.aspx.

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