

Rule No.10

DISPUTED BILLS

A. Correctness of Bill

Any customer who has initiated a complaint to the utility or requested an investigation by the utility within five days of receiving a contested bill shall be given an opportunity for review of such complaint or investigation by a review manager of the utility. The review shall include consideration of whether the customer should be permitted to amortize the unpaid balance of his account over a reasonable period of time.

B. Notice of Deposit to Avoid Discontinuance

If an explanation satisfactory to the customer is not made by the utility and the bill is not paid within 19 days after its presentation or at the time the explanation is made, whichever is longer, the utility will notify the customer in writing substantially as follows:

1. To avoid discontinuance of service, in lieu of paying the bill in question, the residential customer within 15 days and the nonresidential customer within 7 days of the date of this notice, must deposit with the California Public Utilities Commission, State Building, San Francisco, California 94102*, the amount of the bill claimed by the utility to be due.

C. Commission Appeal

When a customer and the utility fail to agree on a bill for service:

1. To avoid discontinuance of service, in lieu of paying the disputed bill the customer may deposit, with the California Public Utilities Commission at its office in the State Building, San Francisco, California 94102*, the amount claimed by the utility to be due.
2. Checks or other forms of remittance for such deposit should be made payable to the California Public Utilities Commission and should be accompanied with the bill in question and a statement setting forth the basis for the dispute of the amount of the bill.
3. Upon receipt of the deposit, the bill and the customer's statement of the dispute, the Commission will notify the utility, will review the basis of the billed amount, and will advise both parties of its findings and disburse the deposit in accordance therewith.
4. Service will not be discontinued for nonpayment of the disputed bill when deposit has been made with the Commission pending the outcome of the Commission's review.
5. Failure of the customer to make such deposit prior to the expiration of the discontinuance of service notice as given in Rule 10 B.1. will warrant a discontinuance of service.
6. If before completion of the Commission's review, additional bills become due which the customer wishes to dispute, he shall also deposit with the Commission the additional amounts claimed by the utility to be due for such additional bills before they become past due and failure to do so will warrant discontinuance of his service in accordance with Rule No. 11.

* For service rendered in Southern California, substitute - "320 West 4th Street, Suite 500, Los Angeles 90013" for "State Building, San Francisco 94102".

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(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)

ISSUED BY

(TO BE INSERTED BY C.P.U.C.)

ADVICE LETTER NO. 533

D. P. STEPHENSON
NAME

DATE FILED MAY 14 1999

DECISION NO.

DIRECTOR - RATES & REVENUES
TITLE

EFFECTIVE JUN 23 1999
RESOLUTION NO.