

TECHNICAL TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Applicant

A person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, and any agency or political subdivision of the federal, state, or local government requesting CenterPoint Energy to supply gas or interconnect service. A request for gas or interconnect service is distinguished from an inquiry as to the availability of or charges for such service.

Customer

The person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, or any agency of the federal, state, or local government being supplied with gas or interconnect service by CenterPoint Energy in whose name service is rendered as evidenced by an application, contract, or agreement for service. In the absence of an application, contract, or agreement for service, the customer shall be the person receiving or paying bills issued in his/her or its name, regardless of the identity of the actual user of the service.

Excess Flow Valve

Safety device designed to automatically stop or restrict the flow of gas if an underground pipe is broken or severed.

Gas Mains

Any pipe used or useable for the purpose of delivering and distributing gas to individual gas service lines or other gas mains.

Gas Main Extension

An extension of an existing gas main.

Gas Service Line

All pipe, valves, and fittings from and including the connection at the gas main up to the including the stopcock on the inlet side of the regulator or gas meter.

Gas Meter Set

All fittings, including regulator, meter and attachment bracket between the stopcock at the end of the gas service line and the connection to the customer's piping at the meter.

Normal Gas Meter Location

On the outside of the building to be served and on the face or within five feet of the corner of the building in closest proximity to the gas main to which the gas service pipe is to be attached.

Normal Gas Service Line

A gas service pipe installed in a straight line from the gas main to a normal gas meter location.

Notices

Unless otherwise specified, any notice from CenterPoint Energy to a customer, or from a customer to CenterPoint Energy, may be oral or written.

A written notice from CenterPoint Energy may either be delivered or mailed to the customers' last known address. A written notice from the customer may either be delivered or mailed to CenterPoint Energy's main office, 505 Nicollet Mall, P.O. Box 59038, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55459-0038, or to any of its branch, local or regional offices.

Person

An individual person, firm, association, partnership, corporation, any agency or political subdivision of the federal, state or local government or any applicant or customer as herein defined.

Premises

The structure or structures owned or occupied by a person including the lot or land upon which they are situated and all other land owned or occupied by the persons contiguous thereto.

Regular Construction Season

The period beginning April 1 and ending October 31 of each year.

Commission or PUC

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Date Issued

The date the rate schedule, contract, agreement, etc. is submitted to the Commission.

Standby Gas Service

Service continuously available through a permanent connection to provide gas for customer's use in case of failure of another regularly used source of energy.

Supplementary Gas Service

Service continuously available through a permanent connection to supplement or augment directly or indirectly on an intermittent basis another source of energy.

Emergency Gas Service

Service supplied through a temporary connection for customer's use when his usual source of energy has failed.

Residential Customer

A residential customer uses gas for general household purposes in a space occupied as a living unit, such as a single private residence, single flat or apartment with less than five units, fraternity house, sorority house or rooming house.

Commercial Customer

A commercial customer uses gas in the conduct of a business enterprise in space occupied and operated for commerce, such as stores, offices, shops, hotels, apartment hotels, multiple flats or apartments with five or more units, wholesale houses, warehouses, garages, filling stations, greenhouses, nurseries and kennels, schools, churches, hospitals, and other institutions of similar nature.

Industrial Customer

An industrial customer uses gas in a space dedicated to the production of articles of commerce through manufacturing, processing, refining, mining, or fabricating.

Contributions in Aid of Construction

Moneys deposited with CenterPoint Energy by customers or applicants as non-refundable contributions to aid expansion of the distribution system, when CenterPoint Energy determines that specific extensions of service are in excess of requirements allowed by these Rules and Regulations without a contribution. Included are excess service charges, casing charges, and in some cases, excess main charges.

Advances for Construction

Moneys advanced to CenterPoint Energy by customers or applicants as a refundable non-interest bearing advance for extension of the distribution system that are deemed not economically feasible or abnormal as determined by these Rules and Regulations. These advances are refundable in full or part for only a specific period.