

3.00 APPLICATION FOR GAS SERVICE

3.01 Application

Application for new gas service or turn on of existing gas service may be made by the owner, occupant, or agent in control of the property, in person at CenterPoint Energy's business offices, by telephone, by fax, or by mail. Application for service must be made and accepted by CenterPoint Energy prior to the commencement of CenterPoint Energy's service.

3.02 Rejection of Application

CenterPoint Energy may refuse applications for new gas service or turn on of existing gas service upon reasonable grounds. The following situations would qualify as reasonable grounds:

- 1) Service is not economically feasible;
- 2) Service to a new applicant might affect the supply of gas to other customers;
- 3) Failure of customer to agree to comply with Rules and Regulations;
- 4) Improper use of gas service or equipment;
- 5) CenterPoint Energy and/or its pipeline supplier are unable to provide the necessary gas supply.

3.03 Duration

CenterPoint Energy will supply gas service to a customer until notified by the customer to discontinue service. The customer will be responsible for payment of all service provided to the date of the discontinuance. All service is subject to the rates, rules and regulations stated in CenterPoint Energy's Rate Book.

3.04 Authorized Connection of Qualifying Customer

New or existing customers that want to install gas equipment shall obtain such permits as may be required by appropriate municipality to install that piece of equipment. CenterPoint Energy shall obtain permits necessary for all existing or prospective customers seeking an increased or new supply of natural gas from the appropriate authorities, including but not limited to the municipality, county, state, Department of Natural Resources or the Highway Department. When gas supplies are adequate and where the gas distribution system has sufficient capacity to provide the gas service requested without jeopardizing gas supply to the area being served by the existing gas distribution system, CenterPoint Energy will authorize connection of customers who qualify under these Rules and Regulations in the order that their applications are received. If an application for gas service is denied by CenterPoint Energy, it will be held for subsequent approval if gas supply conditions warrant, in the order in which it was received.

3.05 Standby, Supplementary and Emergency Gas Service

Standby, supplementary and emergency gas service is available only by special arrangement and under specific individualized contracts.