The Customers shall reimburse the Company for the Customers’ proportionate part of any tax, charge, impost, assessment or fee of whatever kind and by whatever name (except ad valorem taxes and income taxes) levied upon the Company by any governmental authority under any law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Tax”). If the law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or agreement levying the Tax specifies a method of collection from Customers, then the method so specified shall be utilized provided such method results in the collection of taxes from the Customers equal to the taxes levied on the Company. If no method of collection is specified, then the Company shall collect an amount calculated as a percentage of the Customers’ bills applicable directly to those Customers located solely within the jurisdiction imposing the tax and/or within the jurisdiction where the tax is applicable. The percentage shall be determined so that the collection from Customers within the Company’s different legal jurisdictions (municipal or otherwise defined) encompassing the South Texas Division is equal to the taxes levied on the Company.

The initial Tax Adjustment Rate shall be based on the Taxes that are levied upon the Company on the effective date of this Rate Schedule. The Company will initiate a new or changed Tax Adjustment Rate beginning with the billing cycle immediately following the effective date of the new or changed Tax as specified by the applicable law, rule, regulation, ordinance, or agreement, provided that the Company has the customer billing data necessary to bill and collect the Tax. If at any time there is a significant change that will cause an unreasonable over or under collection of the Tax, the Company will adjust the Tax Adjustment Rate so that such over or under collection will be minimized. The Tax Adjustment Rate (calculated on a per Ccf or per Mcf basis, as appropriate) shall be reported to the applicable governmental authority by the last business day of the month in which the Tax Adjustment Rate became effective.