

7810.1600 DEPOSIT.

When required, a customer may assure payment by submitting a deposit. A deposit shall not exceed an estimated two months' gross bill or existing two months' bill where applicable. All deposits shall be in addition to payment of an outstanding bill or a part of such bill as has been resolved to the satisfaction of the utility, except where such bill has been discharged in bankruptcy. A utility shall not require a deposit or a guarantee of payment without explaining in writing why that deposit or guarantee is being required and under what conditions, if any, the deposit will be diminished upon return. The deposit shall be refunded to the customer after 12 consecutive months of prompt payment of all bills to that utility. The utility may, at its option, refund the deposit by direct payment or as a credit on the bill. With notice any deposit of a customer shall be applied by the utility to a bill when the bill has been determined by the utility to be delinquent. Each utility shall issue a written receipt of deposit to each customer from whom a deposit is received and shall provide a means whereby a depositor may establish a claim if the receipt is unavailable.

Interest shall be paid on deposits in excess of \$20 at the rate of six percent per year. Interest on deposits shall be payable from the date of deposit to the date of refund or disconnection. The utility may, at its option, pay the interest at intervals it chooses but at least annually, by direct payment, or as a credit on bills.

Upon termination of service, the deposit with accrued interest shall be credited to the final bill and the balance shall be returned within 45 days to the customer.

Statutory Authority: *MS s 237.10*

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