

January 31, 2025

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Room B-20, North Office Building Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Re: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation Supplement No. 282 to Tariff Gas - Pa.

P.U.C. No. 9 - Docket No. D-2023-3040107

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation is Supplement 282. This filing includes updates to tariff language regarding residential security deposits as recommended during the comprehensive management audit performed under docket No. D-2023-3040107. The language was reviewed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Bureau of Consumer Services prior to filing.

Please direct any questions concerning this filing to the undersigned at (716) 857-6945.

Respectfully submitted,

Janine Ward

Asst. General Manager Rate and Regulatory Affairs

Enclosure

# NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION BUFFALO, NEW YORK

### RATES, RULES AND REGULATIONS

## GOVERNING THE FURNISHING

OF

### NATURAL GAS SERVICE

# IN TERRITORY DESCRIBED HEREIN

NATIONAL FUEL GAS
DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION

Supplement No. 282 to

Gas - Pa. P.U.C. No. 9

Two-Hundred-Forty-Nineth Revised Page No. 2

Canceling Two-Hundred-Forty-Six and Two-Hundred-Forty-Eighth Revised Page No. 2

LIST OF CHANGES MADE BY THIS TARIFF

#### CHANGE:

1. Revised language regarding residential security deposits. Page 24, 24A, 24B and 25.

Two-Hundred-Forty-Ninth Revised Page No. 4

Canceling Two-Hundred-Forty-Sixth and Canceling Two-Hundred-Forty-Eighth Revised
Page No. 4

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#### RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

#### 21. CONJUNCTIVE BILLING(Cont'd)

same premises to service a single customer, in which event the consumption registered by such meters may be consolidated and the rates under which service is taken applied to the total consumption. The term "same premises" means a single building; or the several buildings under one ownership within a single parcel of land not intersected by a public highway or city street; provided, however, that the Company, in its sole discretion, may permit conjunctive billing at premises not conforming to the above definition of "same premises" if it is reasonably necessary to do so to meet competition from another supplier of energy, including gas.

An established conjunctive billing arrangement shall be permitted to continue so long as the customer remains at the premises presently served. The conjunctive billing arrangement shall neither be expanded to the customer's newly-acquired premises, nor transferred in whole or in part to different premises, nor continued at the same premises for different customers, unless, in the Company's sole discretion, it is reasonable to expand, transfer or continue the conjunctive billing arrangement.

#### 22. ADJUSTMENT OF BILLS FOR METER ERROR

Charges to customers will be adjusted for fast, slow and nonregistering meters, as per Section 59.22 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for Gas Service, 52 Pa. Code Paragraph 59.22.

#### 23. METER TEST ON REQUEST OF CUSTOMER

Meters which are not due for periodic tests will be tested for accuracy as per Section 59.21 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for Gas Service, 52 Pa. Code Paragraph 59.21, upon written request by the customer and payment to the Company of a deposit in the amount specified by said regulations.

#### 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS

The Company may require applicants or customers to provide deposits for services if the criteria specified herein or otherwise imposed by applicable law are met. The Company may not deny the customer regulated services based on the customer's failure to provide deposits for unregulated services.

#### Deposits for Applicants/Customers Seeking or Receiving Residential Service

- a) Deposits may be required from Residential customers in accordance with the Pennsylvania Public utility Code and the Rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.
- b) Deposits for Residential service will equal 1/6 of the annual bill for the premise where Residential service is requested or used (inclusive of Natural Gas Supplier (NGS) charges where the NGS specified by the customer participates in the Company's purchase of receivables program) as determined by the company.
- c) c) The company may require deposits from a Residential applicant or customer for any of the following conditions:

#### (C) Indicates Change

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

- 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)
  - i. The applicant previously received service from the Company and had service terminated for any of the following:
- (C)
- A. Nonpayment of an undisputed delinquent account.
- B. Failure to complete payment of a deposit, provide a quarantee or establish credit.
- C. Failure to permit access to meters, service connections or other property of the Company for the purpose of replacement, maintenance, repair or meter reading.
- D. Unauthorized use of service delivered on or about the affected dwelling.
- E. Failure to comply with the material terms of a payment arrangement.
- F. Fraud or material misrepresentation of identity for the purpose of obtaining service.
- G. Tampering with meters, including bypassing a meter or removal of an AMR device or other Company equipment.
- H. Violating tariff provisions on file with the Commission so as to endanger the safety of a person or the integrity of the delivery system of the Company.
- ii. A Residential applicant or customer who is unable to establish creditworthiness to the satisfaction of the Company using a generally accepted credit scoring methodology, and which employs standards for using the methodology that falls within the range of general industry practice.
- iii. An existing Residential customer may be required to pay a security deposit to re-establish credit if the customer's service has been terminated and the customer requests reconnection, after the Company provides notice of its intention to require a security deposit in accordance with prevailing Commission regulations.
- a) The Company will not require a cash deposit from an applicant or customer who, based on household income, is confirmed to be eligible for a customer assistance program. An applicant or customer is confirmed to be eligible for the Company's Commission-approved CAP as specified in the Company's Commission-approved Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan if the applicant or customer provides income documents or other information attesting to his or her eligibility for state
- (C) Indicates Change

(C)

RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

#### 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)

benefits based on household income eligibility requirements that are consistent with those of the Company's Commission-approved CAP as specified in the Company's Commission-approved Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan. Upon determining that a customer or applicant is not subject to a deposit, the Company will return the deposit with any applicable interest to the customer or applicant within 60-days of the determination.

- a) The Company may accept, in lieu of a cash deposit, a written third-party guaranty. The guarantor will be responsible for all missed payments owed to the Company.
- b) Payment of deposits will be required in full within 90 days. Residential customers or applicants may elect to pay the required deposit in three installments by paying 50% upon determination the deposit is required or prior to and as a condition of service, with 25% billed 30 days after service is established and 25% billed 60 days after service is established. Payment of installments will not be due less than 21 days from the date of mailing or service on the customer of notification of the amount due. Failure to pay an installment by the due date will result, after notice, in termination of service.
- c) Until returned or credited, interest will accrue on Residential deposits at the rate of interest as determined by the Secretary of Revenue for interest on the underpayment of tax under Section 806 of the Act of April 19, 1929 (P.L.343, No. 176), known as The Fiscal Code. Interest accrued on Residential deposits, together with the deposit will (i) first be applied to any outstanding balance for service and, (ii) after satisfying any outstanding balance or if no outstanding balance exists, will be refunded to the customer at the time the deposit is returned.
- d) Deposits for Residential customers will be held until the customer establishes a timely payment history which shall be defined as when the customer has paid in full and on time for a period of 12 consecutive months. At the end of the deposit hold period, the Company will credit the deposit plus accrued interest to the customer's account. The credit will be first applied to any past due amount. If service is terminated or discontinued before the end of the deposit hold period, any outstanding balance will be deducted from the deposit before the remaining deposit balance is returned to the customer within 60 days.

#### Deposits for Applicants/Customers Seeking Temporary Service.

Deposits may be required from customers taking service for a period of less than thirty days in an amount equal to the estimated bill for such temporary period.

(C) Indicates Change

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RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)

# Deposits for Applicants/Customers Seeking Service Other than Residential Service

Deposits may be required from Commercial or Industrial customers but shall not exceed the amount equal to the sum of amounts computed by applying the applicable sales rate schedule to the volumes of gas transported by or purchased from the Company, and consumed by the customer during the two, of the most recent twelve months of greatest usage by the Customer. In lieu of actual experience, the determination will be based on an estimate considering all

Security, in the form of a cash deposit, letter of credit, surety bond, or third-party guarantee, will be required from the applicants for Nonresidential service unless: A) the premises to which gas service is to be supplied is a branch of, or additional facility operated by, financially responsible, enterprise which will be the ratepayer of record with respect to gas bills incurred at the premises; or, B) in the case of a premises not covered by "A" above, the Company determines, through relevant Company records covering past direct dealings with the applicant over a period of at least one year, that a deposit is not necessary. Security, in the form of a cash deposit, letter of credit, surety bond, or third-party guarantee, will be required from existing Non-residential customers where the Company determines that the customer's credit standing warrants concern as to its continuing ability to pay. In evaluating a customer's credit standing, the Company will take into account certain factors, including, but not limited to, the following: i) average monthly consumption; ii) average monthly bill; iii) payment history during the immediately preceding twelve month period; iv) customer's general credit standing as evaluated by any available applicable credit rating indices or rating services; v) customer's payment history and credit standing with other lenders or providers of utility and other services.

Interest will be paid on non-residential deposits at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum without deductions for any taxes thereon. Upon non-residential deposits held for more than a year, the Company shall pay to the patron, at the end of the calendar year, the interest accrued thereon.

25. CUSTOMERS SERVED THROUGH SERVICE CONNECTIONS ATTACHED TO FACILITIES OTHER THAN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LINES

Service from a line outside the Company's low pressure and medium pressure distribution systems will not be furnished unless such line is at that time being operated in a manner which will permit gas to be served to the applicant without interference with its operation. The furnishing of such service will be with the understanding that the use or manner of use of the Company's line from which gas is to be supplied is not permanent and that such service is subject to temporary or absolute change or discontinuance at the sole discretion of the Company which may at any time remove, repair or change the use or manner of operating said line after having first canceled the service contract by thirty days' written notice to the customer.

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Supplement No. 28254 to Gas - Pa. P.U.C. No. 9
Fifthourth Revised Page No. 24
Cancelling Third-Fourth Revised Page No. 24

NATIONAL FUEL GAS

RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

#### 21. CONJUNCTIVE BILLING (Cont'd)

same premises to service a single customer, in which event the consumption registered by such meters may be consolidated and the rates under which service is taken applied to the total consumption. The term "same premises" means a single building; or the several buildings under one ownership within a single parcel of land not intersected by a public highway or city street; provided, however, that the Company, in its sole discretion, may permit conjunctive billing at premises not conforming to the above definition of "same premises" if it is reasonably necessary to do so to meet competition from another supplier of energy, including gas.

An established conjunctive billing arrangement shall be permitted to continue so long as the customer remains at the premises presently served. The conjunctive billing arrangement shall neither be expanded to the customer's newly-acquired premises, nor transferred in whole or in part to different premises, nor continued at the same premises for different customers, unless, in the Company's sole discretion, it is reasonable to expand, transfer or continue the conjunctive billing arrangement.

#### 22. ADJUSTMENT OF BILLS FOR METER ERROR

Charges to customers will be adjusted for fast, slow and nonregistering meters, as per Section 59.22 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for Gas Service, 52 Pa. Code Paragraph 59.22.

#### 23. METER TEST ON REQUEST OF CUSTOMER

Meters which are not due for periodic tests will be tested for accuracy as per Section 59.21 of the regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission for Gas Service, 52 Pa. Code Paragraph 59.21, upon written request by the customer and payment to the Company of a deposit in the amount specified by said regulations.

#### 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS

The Company may require  $\frac{\text{applicants or}}{\text{customers}}$  customers to provide deposits for services if the criteria specified herein or otherwise imposed by applicable  $\frac{\text{law are met}}{\text{met}}$ . The Company may not deny the customer regulated services based on the customer's failure to provide deposits for unregulated services.

Peposits may be required from customers taking service for a period of less than thirty days in an amount equal to the estimated bill for such temporary period.

Deposits may be required from Commercial or Industrial customers but shall not exceed the amount equal to the sum of amounts computed by applying the applicable sales rate schedule to the volumes of gas transported by or purchased from the Company, and consumed by the customer during the two, of the most recent twelve months of greatest usage by the Customer. In lieu of actual experience, the determination will be based on an estimate considering all relevant information and data.

Deposits for Applicants/Customers Seeking or Receiving Residential Service

- Deposits may be required from Residential customers in accordance with the Pennsylvania Public utility Code and the Rules and Regulations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.
- b) Deposits for Residential service will equal 1/6 of the annual bill for the premise where Residential service is requested or used (inclusive of Natural Gas Supplier (NGS)

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 $\frac{\text{charges where the NGS specified by the customer participates in the}}{\text{Company's purchase of receivables program)}} \text{ as determined by the company.}$ 

c) The company may require deposits from a Residential applicant or customer for any of the following conditions:

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Supplement No. 282 to Gas - Pa. P.U.C. No. 9

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DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION

Gas - Pa. P.U.C. No. 9
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RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

#### 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)

- i. The applicant previously received service from the Company and had service terminated for any of the following:
  - A. Nonpayment of an undisputed delinquent account.
  - B. Failure to complete payment of a deposit, provide a guarantee or establish credit.
  - C. Failure to permit access to meters, service connections or other property of the Company for the purpose of replacement, maintenance, repair or meter reading.
  - D. Unauthorized use of service delivered on or about the affected dwelling.
  - E. Failure to comply with the material terms of a payment arrangement.
  - F. Fraud or material misrepresentation of identity for the purpose of obtaining service.
  - G. Tampering with meters, including bypassing a meter or removal of an AMR device or other Company equipment.
  - H. Violating tariff provisions on file with the Commission so as to endanger the safety of a person or the integrity of the delivery system of the Company.
- ii. A Residential applicant or customer who is unable to establish creditworthiness to the satisfaction of the Company using a generally accepted credit scoring methodology, and which employs standards for using the methodology that falls within the range of general industry practice.
- iii. An existing Residential customer may be required to pay a security deposit to re-establish credit if the customer's service has been terminated and the customer requests reconnection, after the Company provides notice of its intention to require a security deposit in accordance with prevailing Commission regulations.
- a) The Company will not require a cash deposit from an applicant or customer who, based on household income, is confirmed to be eligible for a customer assistance program. An applicant or customer is confirmed to be eligible for the Company's Commission-approved CAP as specified in the Company's Commission-approved Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan if the applicant or customer provides income documents or other information attesting to his or her eligibility for state

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RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

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#### 24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)

benefits based on household income eligibility requirements that are consistent with those of the Company's Commission-approved CAP as specified in the Company's Commission-approved Universal Service and Energy Conservation Plan. Upon determining that a customer or applicant is not subject to a deposit, the Company will return the deposit with any applicable interest to the customer or applicant within 60-days of the determination.

- a) The Company may accept, in lieu of a cash deposit, a written third-party guaranty. The guarantor will be responsible for all missed payments owed to the Company.
- By Payment of deposits will be required in full within 90 days.

  Residential customers or applicants may elect to pay the required deposit in three installments by paying 50% upon determination the deposit is required or prior to and as a condition of service, with 25% billed 30 days after service is established and 25% billed 60 days after service is established. Payment of installments will not be due less than 21 days from the date of mailing or service on the customer of notification of the amount due. Failure to pay an installment by the due date will result, after notice, in termination of service.
- c) Until returned or credited, interest will accrue on Residential deposits at the rate of interest as determined by the Secretary of Revenue for interest on the underpayment of tax under Section 806 of the Act of April 19, 1929 (P.L.343, No. 176), known as The Fiscal Code. Interest accrued on Residential deposits, together with the deposit will (i) first be applied to any outstanding balance for service and, (ii) after satisfying any outstanding balance or if no outstanding balance exists, will be refunded to the customer at the time the deposit is returned.
- Deposits for Residential customers will be held until the customer establishes a timely payment history which shall be defined as when the customer has paid in full and on time for a period of 12 consecutive months. At the end of the deposit hold period, the Company will credit the deposit plus accrued interest to the customer's account. The credit will be first applied to any past due amount. If service is terminated or discontinued before the end of the deposit hold period, any outstanding balance will be deducted from the deposit before the remaining deposit balance is returned to the customer within 60 days.

#### Deposits

#### for Applicants/Customers Seeking Temporary Service.

 $$\tt Deposits$  may be required from customers taking service for a period of less than thirty days in an amount equal to the estimated bill for such temporary period.

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Supplement No. 156 282 to Gas - Pa. P.U.C. No. 9

Second Third Revised Page No. 25

Cancelling First Second Revised Page No. 25

RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ALL TERRITORIES SERVED (Cont'd)

24. RULES FOR SECURING DEPOSITS (Cont'd)

# <u>Deposits for Applicants/Customers Seeking Service Other than Residential Service</u>

peposits may be required from Commercial or Industrial customers but shall not exceed the amount equal to the sum of amounts computed by applying the applicable sales rate schedule to the volumes of gas transported by or purchased from the Company, and consumed by the customer during the two, of the most recent twelve months of greatest usage by the Customer. In lieu of actual experience, the determination will be based on an estimate considering all

Security, in the form of a cash deposit, letter of credit, surety bond, or third-party guarantee, will be required from the applicants for Nonresidential service unless: A) the premises to which gas service is to be supplied is a branch of, or additional facility operated by, financially responsible, enterprise which will be the ratepayer of record with respect to gas bills incurred at the premises; or, B) in the case of a premises not covered by "A" above, the Company determines, through relevant Company records covering past direct dealings with the applicant over a period of at least one year, that a deposit is not necessary. Security, in the form of a cash deposit, letter of credit, surety bond, or third-party guarantee, will be required from existing Non-residential customers where the Company determines that the customer's credit standing warrants concern as to its continuing ability to pay. In evaluating a customer's credit standing, the Company will take into account certain factors, including, but not limited to, the following: i) average monthly consumption; ii) average monthly bill; iii) payment history during the immediately preceding twelve month period; iv) customer's general credit standing as evaluated by any available applicable credit rating indices or rating services; v) customer's payment history and credit standing with other lenders or providers of utility and other services.

Until returned or credited, interest will accrue on Residential deposits at the rate of interest as determined by the Secretary of Revenue for interest on the underpayment of tax under Section 806 of the Act of April 19, 1929 (P.L.343, No. 176), known as The Fiscal Code. Interest accrued on Residential deposits will either be applied, together with the deposit, to any outstanding balance for service or will be paid at the time the deposit is returned. Interest will be paid on non-residential deposits at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum without deductions for any taxes thereon. Upon non-residential deposits held for more than a year, the Company shall pay to the patron, at the end of the calendar year, the interest accrued thereon.

25. CUSTOMERS SERVED THROUGH SERVICE CONNECTIONS ATTACHED TO FACILITIES OTHER THAN DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM LINES

Service from a line outside the Company's low pressure and medium pressure distribution systems will not be furnished unless such line is at that time being operated in a manner which will permit gas to be served to the applicant without interference with its operation. The furnishing of such service will be with the understanding that the use or manner of use of the Company's line from which gas is to be supplied is not permanent and that such service is subject to temporary or absolute change or discontinuance at the sole discretion of the Company which may at any time remove, repair or change the use or manner of operating said line after having first canceled the service contract by thirty days' written notice to the customer.

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