

RULE 3. METER READINGS AND BILLINGS

(A) Billings, Meter Readings and Estimates. All metered accounts will be billed monthly. All meters will be read bimonthly, unless the customer requests regular monthly readings at the charge provided in the Department's rate schedules. Readings shall be prima facie evidence of the amount of water used. Customers will be billed on the basis of estimated consumption for the first month of the reading period, and the second month will be billed on the basis of actual consumption for the total reading period, less the estimated consumption billed in the first month. Bills based on estimated consumption may also be rendered at the request of the customer or where circumstances beyond the Department's reasonable control require estimates, including, but not limited to, inclement weather, labor disputes, inaccessibility of a customer's meter or remote counter where the Department has reasonably attempted to read it, and failure of the meter or remote counter to register.

~~Estimated monthly consumption for interim billings will be based on a 12~~ the higher of the most recent twelve-month moving average or a seasonal average for the premises whenever such data are available. In those circumstances where 12 months of consumption history or a seasonal moving average is not available, the estimate shall be based on the average monthly consumption for the customer's classification, as determined for the previous calendar year, unless there is evidence currently available which would indicate that such an estimate would be inapplicable, in which case the Department will estimate the bill based on such known circumstances average or two-month average. New customers with less than a twelve-month history are billed at the higher of the two-month average or the average of all available months.

Bills for municipal uses will be rendered monthly. Annual unmetered municipal consumption will be estimated, based on consultations, and treated as consumed evenly throughout the year as metered water.

Bills for unmetered fire service will be rendered monthly. If a customer receives unmetered fire service through a service pipe in which a detector check with a bypass meter is installed, as provided for in Rule 9(G), the Department will read the meter at the time of the annual fire service inspection, and the consumption shall be treated as consumed evenly over the period since the previous reading.

(B) Adjustments Following Estimated Bills. Where the Department has billed based on estimated consumption, the first charge after a meter reading is obtained shall be adjusted by averaging consumption over the period from the last reading, or from the date service through the meter was begun if the meter had not previously been read, charging for each period in accordance with the Department's rate schedules for the periods and allowing credit for the amount of estimated billings.

(C) More Frequent and Requested Readings. Any customer may, upon written request to the Department, obtain regular monthly readings of his meter for such additional charge as prescribed in the Department's rate schedules. Upon request of a customer, the Department will make a special reading of the customer's meter at a time other than the time of a