

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATURAL GAS COLD WEATHER RULE EXPIRED MARCH 31

LINCOLN – An additional 30-day grace period for customers to pay bills to their privately-owned natural gas utility expired March 31.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission’s cold weather rule, which gives consumers served by privately-owned natural gas companies 30 days over the normal period offered by the companies to pay a monthly billing, was in effect November 1 through March 31. Privately-owned natural gas companies were not permitted shut off service to customers during that period without offering the additional 30-day period. The purpose of the rule is to allow customers some flexibility in absorbing costs associated with increased natural gas usage during colder months.

Commission Chair Jerry Vap, of McCook, said, “customers who are still in arrears for their winter natural gas payments should contact the company to arrange payment. The cold weather rule does not diminish the customer’s responsibility to pay for the natural gas that has been used. If a customer had difficulty paying the bills during the high volume winter heating months, it is still the customer’s job to make arrangements with the company or seek bill payment assistance through H.H.S., Salvation Army, etc.”

Nebraska is served by three privately-owned natural gas companies – Aquila, Kinder-Morgan, and NorthWestern Corporation. Some Nebraska communities are served by municipally-owned natural gas utilities that are not subject to regulation by the Commission.

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