



Railroad Commission of Texas Proposed Rulemaking Summary

16 Texas Administrative Code §7.480, *Energy Conservation Programs*, and §7.460, *Suspension of Gas Utility Service Disconnection During an Extreme Weather Emergency*

This page is a plain language summary of a Railroad Commission of Texas rulemaking prepared pursuant to Texas Government Code §2001.023. This page is only a summary. To review the full rule proposal and/or submit comments online, visit the Railroad Commission of Texas website at <https://www.rrc.texas.gov/general-counsel/rules/proposed-rules/> under “Chapter 7. Gas Services”.

Public Comment Deadline — 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25, 2023

Action (new, amend, and/or repeal) — New Rule and Amendments to Existing Rule

Summary

The proposed new rule 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §7.480 addresses requirements from House Bill 2263 from the 2023 Texas Legislative Session. The rule contains the requirements for energy conservation programs offered by local distribution companies. House Bill 2263 allows local distribution companies to apply for an energy conservation program. If the Railroad Commission of Texas approves the program, the local distribution company can charge customers for costs the company incurs in implementing the program.

The proposed amendments to 16 TAC §7.460 implement Texas Utilities Code §105.023, which requires the Railroad Commission of Texas to adopt a classification table to guide courts in issuing civil penalties against gas utilities who disconnect service to residential customers during an extreme weather emergency.

- 16 TAC §7.480(a) and (b) – Explains the energy conservation program authority given to a local distribution company and defines terms used in the rule.
- 16 TAC §7.480(c) and (d) – Lists the requirements for an application for an energy conservation program, including the initial and subsequent application.
- 16 TAC §7.480(e) – Specifies the contents of the notice of an application for an energy conservation program and states that notice must be provided in English and Spanish.
- 16 TAC §7.480(f) – Describes what the energy conservation program must accomplish.

- 16 TAC §7.480(g) – Outlines the cost recovery mechanism that a local distribution company must use.
- 16 TAC §7.480(h) – Specifies that the Director of Gas Services will review all applications.
- 16 TAC §7.480(i), (j) and (k) – Requires the local distribution company to include proposed rate schedules with its application and to file reports with Gas Services at certain times. States how the local distribution company will reimburse the Railroad Commission of Texas' costs related to reviewing applications.
- 16 TAC §7.460(b)(1) – Adds the classification table required by Texas Utilities Code §105.023.

Questions

Send questions regarding Railroad Commission of Texas rules to the Office of General Counsel at gcwebmaster@rrc.texas.gov.

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