

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:

REVIEW OF ACCESS TO AFFILIATE RECORDS, REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL FILINGS, AND ASSET AND SERVICE TRANSFERS RULES [199 IOWA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 31]

DOCKET NO. RMU-2023-0031

ORDER COMMENCING RULEMAKING

On January 10, 2023, Gov. Kim Reynolds issued Executive Order Number 10 (Executive Order), which put a moratorium on agency rulemaking and directed agencies, including the Utilities Board (Board), to engage in a comprehensive evaluation of existing rules. Pursuant to the Executive Order, the Board is conducting comprehensive reviews of each chapter of its administrative rules.

According to the Executive Order rulemaking process, an agency may not commence a formal rulemaking without first approving a final regulatory analysis and receiving preclearance through a Request to Initiate Rulemaking. See <https://dom.iowa.gov/red-tape-review> (last accessed on January 10, 2024) (setting forth the Executive Order 10 Rulemaking Process). In an order previously issued in the above-captioned docket, the Board approved a final regulatory analysis for chapter 31, and as part of the order, indicated it was submitting a Request to Initiate Rulemaking. Since issuance of that order, the Board received preclearance to commence this chapter 31 rulemaking.

The Board is proposing to rescind chapter 31 and re-promulgate chapter 31 with a revised version of the chapter. The proposed chapter is shown in the Notice of

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Intended Action (NOIA) attached to this order as Attachment A and incorporated in this order by reference. The official version of the NOIA will be published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin (IAB) and may contain additional nonsubstantive editorial changes. The NOIA will be submitted to the Administrative Rules Code Editor and published in the IAB. The date for filing written comments will be 20 days after publication. Additionally, per the Executive Order, the Board will hold two public hearings, the dates for which will be contained in the NOIA published in the IAB.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Notice of Intended Action attached to this order will be submitted to the Administrative Rules Code Editor for review and publication in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin and may contain minor editorial changes that are not shown in the attached Notice of Intended Action. The Notice of Intended Action published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin will identify the public hearing dates.

2. Comments shall be due 20 days from the date of publication of the Notice of Intended Action in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin.

UTILITIES BOARD

Erik M. Helland Date: 2024.01.17
12:03:27 -06'00'

Joshua Byrnes Date: 2024.01.17
14:22:14 -06'00'

ATTEST:

Jackie Yearington Date: 2024.01.17
15:40:28 -06'00'

Sarah Martz Date: 2024.01.17
14:22:23 -06'00'

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 17th day of January, 2024.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

ITEM 1. Rescind 199—Chapter 31 and adopt the following new chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 31
ACCESS TO AFFILIATE RECORDS, REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL FILINGS,
AND SERVICE AND ASSET TRANSFER COSTING STANDARDS

199—31.1(476) Applicability and definition of terms. This chapter applies to all rate-regulated gas, electric, water, sanitary sewage, or storm water drainage service public utilities. All terms used in this chapter are defined in Iowa Code section 476.72 unless further defined in this chapter.

“*Fully distributed cost*” is a costing approach that fully allocates all current and embedded costs to determine the revenue contribution of regulated and nonregulated affiliate operations.

“*Net book value*” means the original purchase price minus depreciation.

199—31.2(476) Availability of records.

31.2(1) *Separate records.* All affiliates of a public utility shall maintain records that are separate from the records of the public utility.

31.2(2) *Records to be maintained.* The records maintained by each affiliate and made available for inspection through the public utility include, but are not limited to, ledgers; balance sheets; income statements, both consolidated and consolidating; documents depicting accounts payable and vouchers; purchase orders; time sheets; journal entries; source and supporting documents for all transactions; supporting documents and models for all forecasts of affiliates used by the public utility; all contracts, including summaries of unwritten contracts or agreements; a description of methods used to allocate revenues, expenses, and investments among affiliates or jurisdictions, including supporting detail; and copies of all filings required by other state and federal agencies.

31.2(3) *Method of inspection.* The records of each affiliate are to be made available to the board. Upon receipt of a formal request in writing from the board for information, the public utility shall produce the requested information within seven days. Upon a showing of good cause, the board may approve additional time for response.

199—31.3(476) Annual filing.

31.3(1) On or before June 30 of each year, all public utilities shall file with the board the following information:

a. An executive summary of each contract, arrangement, or other similar transaction between the public utility and an affiliate. The executive summary includes the start and end date of the contract, the providing affiliate, the receiving affiliate, the total estimated dollar value, the dollar amount reported for the calendar year, and a description of the service or goods covered.

b. Verified copies of contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions between the public utility and an affiliate are to be provided to the board upon request. This includes all contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions as required by Iowa Code sections 476.74(1) through 476.74(4).

31.3(2) Contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions with an affiliate where the consideration is not in excess of \$250,000 or 5 percent of the capital equity of the utility, whichever is smaller, are exempt from this filing requirement. In lieu of the filing requirement, the public utility shall file on or before June 30 of each year a report of the total amount of each contract, arrangement, or other similar transactions with affiliates qualifying under this exemption. Each affiliate is to be identified separately.

31.3(3) After an initial filing under this rule, only new contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions and modifications or amendments to existing contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions need to be reported on an annual basis. If there have been no new contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions, the public utility may file a statement to that effect.

ATTACHMENT A

31.3(4) If a new affiliate is created, if an existing affiliate is dissolved or merged, if a contractual arrangement or other similar transactional relationship between the public utility and an affiliate is created, or if a contractual arrangement or other similar transactional relationship is terminated between the public utility and an affiliate, the public utility shall notify the board in writing within 60 days of the date of the event. This subrule does not apply if a proposal for reorganization pursuant to 199—Chapter 32 is to be filed with the board or the affiliate does not conduct business with the public utility.

199—31.4(476) Verified copies. For purposes of this chapter, a copy is verified if it is accompanied by an affidavit signed by a corporate officer with personal knowledge of the veracity of the copy. Only one affidavit signed by a corporate officer with personal knowledge of the veracity of the copy need be included in an individual filing in order to verify all contracts, arrangements, or other similar transactions included in the filing.

199—31.5(476) Comparable information. For the purpose of satisfying the filing requirements of this chapter, the public utility may request approval to file alternative but comparable information that the public utility files with other state or federal regulatory agencies. If the proposal is approved by the board, the public utility may file the information as a partial substitute for, or in lieu of, the information stipulated in rule 199—31.3(476) and the board may provide that the public utility continue to file the approved alternative information in future filings. The public utility is to file the same information, whether it is the alternative information filed with other agencies or the information stipulated in rule 199—31.3(476), for at least five consecutive years. Proposals to file alternative information may be filed by the public utility on or before December 1 of the year preceding the year for which approval is sought.

199—31.6(476) Standards for costing services between regulated operations and nonregulated affiliates.

31.6(1) *Nonregulated affiliate provides service to a regulated affiliate.* The service shall be priced to the regulated affiliate's operations at the price charged to nonaffiliates. If no such price is available, the service may be priced at the lower of fully distributed cost, the lowest price actually charged to other affiliates, or a market price of comparable services. If a market price of comparable services is not reasonably determinable, the service may be priced at the lower of fully distributed cost or the lowest price actually charged to other affiliates. Under no circumstances is the service to be priced to a regulated affiliate's operations at a higher cost than what the regulated affiliate actually paid the unregulated affiliate for the service.

31.6(2) *Service provided by the utility to a nonregulated affiliate.* Utility service shall be provided at the tariffed price. If it is not a tariffed service, the service is to be recorded at fully distributed cost.

199—31.7(476) Standards for costing asset transfers between regulated operations and nonregulated affiliates valued at less than \$2 million.

31.7(1) *Asset of a nonregulated affiliate transferred to a regulated affiliate.* The asset transfer is to be recorded at the lesser of net book value, the price actually charged to affiliates or nonaffiliates, or the market price of comparable assets. Under no circumstances is the asset to be recorded at a cost higher than what the regulated affiliate actually paid for the asset.

31.7(2) *Asset of a regulated affiliate transferred to a nonregulated affiliate.* The asset transfer to the nonregulated affiliate is to be recorded at the greater of net book value, a price actually charged to other affiliates or nonaffiliates, or the market price of comparable assets.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 476.73 and 476.74.