

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: EMERGENCY EXTENSION OF WINTER MORATORIUM FOR NATURAL GAS AND ELECTRIC SERVICE CUSTOMERS	DOCKET NO. SPU-2019-0005
---	--------------------------

**ORDER EXTENDING WINTER MORATORIUM FOR ELECTRIC AND
NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS**

(Issued March 29, 2019)

Commencing on March 13, 2019, and through the date of this Order, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds issued proclamations of disaster emergency because of continuing widespread flooding and flash flooding that have impacted the state of Iowa due to rapid snow melt combined with heavy rains that caused dangerous conditions across a large portion of the state.

The proclamations state that the flooding threatens the public peace, health, and safety of the citizens of the State of Iowa and authorizes the use of state resources to assist those citizens located in the disaster counties.

Iowa Code § 476.20(2) establishes a moratorium from disconnection of natural gas and electric customers who are eligible for low-income home energy assistance between November 1 and April 1. The statute required the Utilities Board (Board) to adopt rules to implement requirements for eligible customers and for the utilities that are providing natural gas and electric service. The Board

DOCKET NO. SPU-2019-0005
PAGE 2

adopted rules at 199 IAC 19.4(17) for natural gas service and at 20.4(17) for electric service that provide: “No disconnection may take place from November 1 through April 1 for a resident who is a head of household and who has been certified to the public utility by the local community action agency as being eligible for either the low-income home energy assistance program or weatherization assistance program.”

Consistent with the Governor’s proclamations of disaster emergency, the Board will extend the period covered by the winter moratorium from April 1, 2019, to May 13, 2019. This extension will apply to those qualified persons in counties that have been declared a disaster area who could be subject to possible disconnection on April 1, 2019, and would allow those customers to return to their residences to begin the recovery process. This extension applies to all electric and natural gas investor-owned, municipal, and cooperative utilities in counties that have been declared to be disaster areas.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

The winter moratorium which prevents disconnection of eligible electric and natural gas customers between November 1 and April 1, is extended from

DOCKET NO. SPU-2019-0005
PAGE 3

April 1, 2019, through May 13, 2019, in counties that have been declared to be disaster areas as a result of the recent flooding.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelsie Vanderflute

/s/ Richard W. Lozier, Jr.

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 29th day of March, 2019.