

9/1/2024

Morgan County Rural
Electric Association

Rules and Regulations



MORGAN COUNTY REA

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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I. GENERAL RULES

A. General Statement

The following Rules and Regulations are part of the electric tariffs of Morgan County Rural Electric Association. They set forth the terms and conditions under which electric service is supplied and govern all classes of service in all territories served by Morgan County REA. They are subject to termination, change, or modification, in whole or in part, at any time, as provided by these Rules and Regulations.

Service furnished by Morgan County REA is also subject to rules governing members' electric wiring and installations that may be adopted from time to time by Morgan County REA's Board of Directors, the National Electric Code, and any municipal, county, or state electric wiring ordinances. Copies of Morgan County REA's Rules and Regulations are available for inspection at Morgan County REA's offices. Any waiver at any time of Morgan County REA's rights or privileges under these Rules and Regulations will not be deemed a waiver as to any breach or other matter subsequently occurring.

B. Application of Rules

1. All electric service shall be subject to the Rules and Regulations herein contained, together with those Rules and Regulations applicable to the individual class of service taken by the member, with such supplements and revisions thereto as are from time to time in effect.
2. Adopting these Rules shall in no way preclude Morgan County REA from altering or amending the same in whole or in part if Morgan County REA finds compliance to be impossible, impracticable, or unnecessary. These Rules shall not in any way relieve Morgan County REA from any of its duties under the laws of the State of Colorado and the Bylaws of Morgan County REA.

C. Definition

1. The word "Commission" as used in these Rules, shall be construed to mean The Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado.
2. The word "member" as used in these Rules shall be construed to mean any person, group of persons, co-partnership, firm, entity, corporation, institution, any agency of the Federal, State, or local governments, their lessees, trustees, or receivers appointed by any court, contracting for electric service from Morgan County REA for consumptive domestic, commercial, or industrial use, or at wholesale.

D. Complaint Investigation and Records

Morgan County REA shall make a full and prompt investigation of all complaints received from its members, including those made to the Commission, and it shall keep a record of all formal written complaints received, which shall show the name and address of the complainant, the date and character of the complaint, and the adjustment or disposal made thereof. It shall be retained as required in the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Records Retention Schedule.

E. Service After Normal Business Hours

Connections, reconnections, routine discontinuance of service, and other services for the member shall generally be performed by Morgan County REA during normal business hours. In the event Morgan County REA is required, or requested, to perform such duties during other than normal business hours, the member making the request will be required to pay the higher cost thereof.

F. Notice Delivery Definition

Whenever reference is made herein to a notice or other document being mailed or delivered, that phrase shall mean that the notice or other document is either deposited with the United States Postal Service or physically delivered to the address of the addressee and does not necessarily include actual physical receipt by the addressee.

II. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

A. Service Availability and Changes

Morgan County REA shall, on request, give its members such information and assistance as is reasonable and appropriate for members to secure safe and efficient service. Morgan County REA shall inform each member of any change made or proposed to be made, in any condition as to its service, as would affect the efficiency of the service or the operation of the appliances or equipment used by the member.

B. Filing and Availability of Rate Schedules, Rules and Regulations

Tariffs, schedules of rates, and rules and regulations shall be on file in Morgan County REA's offices. They shall be open to inspection by the public during regular business hours. Copies shall also be filed in the office of the Commission for informational purposes only.

C. Advice Notices

Advice Notices, numbered serially, shall accompany each tariff packet courtesy filed with the Commission. This notice shall list all pages included in the filing by number and show the sheet or sheets, if any, affected. The purpose of the filing shall be explained in a brief statement as well as a statement concerning the extent to which members will be affected by such filing.

D. Rates

Upon request of a member, Morgan County REA shall transmit to that member a clear and concise summary of the existing rate schedule applicable to each of its members' major rate classes.

E. Applicable Rate Selection

When there are two or more rates applicable to any class of service, Morgan County REA will, upon request of the member, explain the conditions and character of installation or use of service governing the applicable rates and assist in the selection of the rates most suitable for member's requirements. The member shall be responsible for the final selection of said rate, and Morgan County REA shall assume no liability.

F. Bill Information

Bills rendered to members for metered service shall include information detailed in the Billing - Statement Information section of these Rules and Regulations.

G. Disconnection of Service Notification

Information to be provided prior to disconnection of service is detailed in the Disconnection Notice Requirements section of these Rules and Regulations.

H. Multi-Unit Dwelling Disconnection of Service Notification

Information to be provided prior to disconnection of service of multi-unit dwellings is detailed in the Disconnection Rules – Multi-Unit Dwelling Notification section of these Rules and Regulations.

I. Third-Party Notification Form

A Third-Party Notification Form, indicating a Third-Party to whom disconnection notices are to be sent, shall be provided to each new residential member upon request. The member may mail or deliver to Morgan County REA such Third-Party Notification Form, signed by both the member (or the member's legal representative) and by the Third-Party to be notified in the event of possible discontinuance of service. The Third-Party Notification form shall be substantially in the following format:

- (1) Name of member
- (2) Street address of member
- (3) City, state, and zip code
- (4) Telephone number

THIRD-PARTY TO BE NOTIFIED IN THE EVENT OF POSSIBLE DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE:

- (1) Name
- (2) Street address
- (3) City, state, and zip code
- (4) Telephone number
- (5) Relationship to member, Signature of Third Party
- (6) Date

J. Installment Payment Arrangement Documentation

Documentation to be provided to members pertaining to Installment Payment Arrangements is detailed in the Payment Requirements and Options - Installment Payment Requirements section of these Rules and Regulations.

K. Broken Installment Arrangement Notification Requirements

Information to be provided upon member default of Installment Arrangements is detailed in the Payment Requirements and Options - Installment Payment Requirements – Broken Arrangement Notification Requirement section of these Rules and Regulations.

L. Waiver of Written Notification

Situations allowing for the waiver of notification requirements, including safety concerns, disconnect request by other authorities, and non-authorized restoration of service after disconnection, are detailed in the Disconnection Requirements section of these Rules and Regulations.

M. Meter Reading Method Information

Morgan County REA shall, upon request, explain the method of reading meters to its members.

N. Energy Consumption Information

Upon request of a member, Morgan County REA shall transmit to each member a clear and concise statement of the actual electric energy consumption by such member for each billing period during the prior year (unless such consumption data is not reasonably ascertainable by Morgan County REA).

O. Meter Reading Documentation

In those cases where Morgan County REA reads the member's meter at the time of the reading or thereafter, upon the member's request, Morgan County REA will provide a summary of the readings, and either the total usage expressed in kilowatt-hours or other unit of service recorded.

P. Information Transmittal Method

Information shall be transmitted by such method as to assure receipt by each member of information required to be provided pursuant to this Rule, including "bill stuffer," periodical, or direct mail, where the same is mailed to all members.

Q. Spanish Translation Statement

Any information required to be transmitted pursuant to this Rule shall contain a statement written in Spanish, advising the member, "If you do not read English, you should request someone who understands Spanish and English to translate this notice for you."

III. REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICE

A. Application for Service

The use of electric service shall constitute an agreement under which the user receives electric service and agrees to pay Morgan County REA in accordance with applicable rates, rules, and regulations. The benefits and obligations of the agreement for service may not be assigned without the written consent of Morgan County REA. A separate agreement will be made for each class of service at each separate location.

B. Membership in Morgan County REA

Each applicant for service will become a member of Morgan County REA under conditions prescribed by the Bylaws upon establishing service with Morgan County REA. Applicants for service shall not be required, in any event, to become a member of Morgan County REA before service is supplied. Such persons shall be "Patrons" under the Bylaws. For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the words "member" and "Patron" will be synonymous. The Rules and Regulations apply with equal force to members and Patrons.

C. Membership Deposits

Morgan County REA may require a cash deposit intended to guarantee payment of current bills at any time from a member, prospective member, or patron. A deposit may be requested as a condition of service initiation when a member's usage changes significantly or when a delinquent payment history develops. Rules governing the applicability and calculation of deposits are included in the Member Deposit section of these Rules and Regulations.

D. Right-of-Way Easements

A contract for electric service, or receipt of service by a member, will be construed as an agreement granting Morgan County REA an easement for electric lines, wires, conduits, and other equipment of Morgan County REA necessary to render service to its members. If requested by Morgan County REA, the member will execute Morgan County REA's standard Right-Of-Way Agreement granting to Morgan County REA, at no expense therefore, satisfactory easements for the suitable location of Morgan County REA's wires, conduits, poles, transformers, metering equipment, and other appurtenances on or across lands owned or controlled by the member and will furnish space and shelter satisfactory to Morgan County REA for all necessary apparatus of Morgan County REA located on the member's premises. In the event the member shall divide premises by sale in such manner that one part shall be isolated from streets or alleys where Morgan County REA's electric lines are accessible, the member shall grant or reserve an easement for electric service over the part of the premises having access to Morgan County REA electric lines for the benefit of the isolated part.

E. Facilities

The member shall be required to follow all rules pertaining to the installation, location, and testing of facilities as specified in the Facilities section of these Rules and Regulations.

F. Access for Morgan County REA Employees

The member shall provide access to their premises and Morgan County REA equipment at all reasonable times for authorized employees of Morgan County REA for any proper purpose incidental to the supplying of electric service. To allow for safe operation and maintenance of equipment, no trees, plants, or other obstructions shall be allowed within a specified radius of high-voltage equipment, such as transformers or switching facilities. Reference Morgan County REA Service Installation Guide.

Additionally, no trees, shrubs or other plant life shall be located on, under, or surrounding any Morgan County REA line, equipment, or meters. Morgan County REA may require the member to provide suitable access roads for vehicles where meters, Morgan County REA equipment, and points of connection to the member's facilities are to be accessible from a usable roadway. Morgan County REA may disconnect service, require the member to remove any obstructions, or require the member to pay the reasonable expenses of Morgan County REA for meter readings, connects, and disconnects in the event such access roads are not provided or Morgan County REA equipment cannot be accessed.

G. Access and Equipment Requirements Following Diversion

If a member is disconnected following the Diversion of electric energy, Morgan County REA reserves the right to require the member, at their own expense, to install or arrange with Morgan County REA to have installed entrance and service equipment necessary to prevent further Diversion of electric energy. Morgan County REA will not render service to the member or any other person for the member's use at the same location until all required equipment has been installed.

H. Qualifying Facility and Net Metering Electricity

With the exception of wholesale service, Morgan County REA bases electric rates upon exclusive use of its electric service. No other source of electric energy shall be connected to Morgan County REA's electric distribution system except as provided by the Standards for Interconnection and Protection for Cogenerators and Small Power procedures and MCREA's Net Metering Schedule.

I. Standby Generators

Standby generators for emergency use shall not be considered another source of power.

J. Resale of Electric Energy

The member shall not extend their electrical facilities outside their premises for service to other members or premises and shall not resell any of the energy they received from Morgan County REA to any other person or persons on the member's premises or for use on any other premises.

This Rule shall not apply to municipal utilities served at wholesale rates by Morgan County REA, nor shall it be construed to prohibit check-metering by a master-metered member as provided in the Metering section of these Rules and Regulations.

K. Responsibility of Payment

The party primarily responsible for electric service payment is the member or user whose name service with Morgan County REA is listed. Morgan County REA shall take reasonable and timely steps, pursuant to its Rules and Regulations, to secure payment by or collections from said member or user of record. If such efforts are unsuccessful, Morgan County REA may guarantee payment of the amounts due from a service user who is not the member or user of record. In such event, Morgan County REA shall give prior written notice to said user of its intent to secure payment hereunder and that the applicability of the benefit of service rule stated herein may be disputed by making a written complaint to Morgan County REA's General Manager, or their designee.

L. Compliance with Rules and Regulations

Morgan County REA shall reserve the right to refuse to serve a prospective member and may discontinue service to an existing member until the member has complied with all Morgan County REA Rules and Regulations.

M. Payment for Past Services

Morgan County REA shall reserve the right to refuse to serve a member who is delinquent in payments to Morgan County REA for service previously rendered at the same or other locations or who, at the time of application, is a member of the household of a former member who is delinquent in payments to Morgan County REA, until such indebtedness is paid in full.

N. Payments Due from Previous Occupant

Delinquency in payment for service rendered to a previous occupant of the premises to be served and unpaid charges for service or facilities not ordered by the present or prospective members shall not constitute a sufficient cause for refusal of service to a present or prospective member. However, Morgan County REA may decline to furnish service at the same premises for the use of a delinquent member by subterfuge in any manner. Subterfuge includes, but is not limited to, the use of a fictitious name by a member for service to avoid paying prior indebtedness to Morgan County REA or an application for service at a given location in the name of another party by a member whose account is delinquent and who continues to reside at the premises.

IV. MEMBER DEPOSITS

A. Purpose of Member Deposits for Service

A deposit required pursuant to this Rule may be in addition to any advance, contribution, or guarantee in connection with the construction of lines or facilities, as provided in the extension policy of the utility's tariffs on file with the Commission. Any deposit as required herein is not to be considered as advance payment or partial payment of any bill for service. The making of a deposit shall not relieve any member from payment of current bills as they become due, and no deposit shall be applied by Morgan County REA to any indebtedness of the member to the utility except to a bill for utility services due or past due after service is terminated or upon bankruptcy of the member. In the latter case, the deposit shall be deemed a payment for services provided before bankruptcy.

B. No Security Other Than Cash Deposits Required

Morgan County REA shall not require any security other than a cash deposit to secure payment of utility services. In no event shall the furnishing of utility services or extension of utility facilities or any indebtedness in connection therewith result in a lien, mortgage, or other security interest in any real or personal property of the member, unless such indebtedness has been reduced to judgment.

C. Deposit Calculation

A deposit intended to guarantee payment of current bills shall not exceed an amount equal to an estimated ninety days' bill of the member.

D. Receipt and Records of Deposits

Morgan County REA shall maintain records to show the following for each deposit on hand:

- (1) The name of each member making a deposit.
- (2) The premises occupied by the member when making the deposit and each successive premise occupied while the deposit is retained by Morgan County REA.
- (3) The amount and date of making the deposit.
- (4) A record of each transaction, such as the payment of interest, interest credited, etc., concerning such deposit.

E. Deposit Requirements for New Members

Applicants who were not a member of Morgan County REA for at least twelve (12) months during the prior three (3) years shall be required to make a deposit before service is initiated; provide evidence of satisfactory credit history in a form or manner acceptable to Morgan County REA, as defined in the organization's current policies and procedures, or enroll in Morgan County REA's automatic payment program for the following six (6) consecutive months.

F. Deposit Requirements for Previous Members

Members who have previously received service from Morgan County REA for at least twelve (12) consecutive months within the last three (3) years and who have maintained a satisfactory credit record during the most recent twelve (12) consecutive months will not be required to make a deposit before service is initiated.

G. Deposit Requirements for Divorced or Widowed Spouse Member

Applicants for residential service who are divorced or widowed and whose former spouse met the deposit requirements for previous members described above shall be deemed to have a satisfactory credit record with Morgan County REA themselves and shall not be required to make a deposit.

H. Deposit Requirements for Current Member Due to Changes in Usage

Current members whose usage has changed significantly may be required to make a new or additional deposit.

I. Deposit Requirements for Current Members Due to Delinquent Payments

Current members who have received more than one (1) written disconnection notice in the most recent twelve (12) months shall be required to make a new or additional deposit. Service will not be restored to current members disconnected for non-payment until all deposits have been received.

J. Deposit Requirements Following Subterfuge

An account that has been disconnected due to an act of subterfuge will require a deposit as a condition of reconnection. Subterfuge includes, but is not limited to, the use of a fictitious name by a member for service to avoid paying prior indebtedness to Morgan County REA or an application for service at a given location in the name of another party by a member whose account is delinquent and who continues to reside at the premises.

K. Installment Payments for Commercial and Industrial Deposits

Commercial and industrial members requiring a deposit shall provide said deposit in advance of service or two or three equal installments if approved by Morgan County REA. Installments will be paid as follows: 1st installment will be payable prior to service initiation; 2nd installment will be payable within the next (30) days; the third installation will be within (60) days of connection.

L. Disconnection for Non-Payment of Deposit

If any required deposit remains unpaid thirty (30) days following the due date of the bill on which it first appeared, the member's service shall be subject to termination on ten (10) days' notice.

M. Refund of Deposit

Deposits shall be refunded after a six (6) month period as a credit applied toward the balance of the member account if no delinquency resulting in the issuance of a written disconnection notice to the member has occurred. Thereafter, a review will be made monthly or upon the member's request to determine if the member is eligible for a refund. Refunds will otherwise be made only when a member ceases to receive electric service from Morgan County REA and all outstanding bills have been paid.

N. Refund of Deposit Without Receipt

Morgan County REA shall not refuse to return a deposit or any balance to which a member may be entitled solely upon the basis that the member is unable to produce a receipt for such deposit.

O. Interest Earnings on Member Deposits

Simple interest shall be paid by Morgan County REA on a member deposit upon the return of the deposit or annually at the member's request. Interest on a deposit shall be earned for the time such deposit is held by the utility and shall be calculated from the date the deposit is received by the utility to the date of payment to the member or to the date an amount equal to the deposit is credited to the member's account. At the utility option, interest payments may be paid directly or by credit to the member's account. Whenever the interest rate is changed, deposits held by Morgan County REA shall earn interest at the new rate for the portion of time the deposit is held beyond the effective date of the interest rate change.

P. Interest Rate on Member Deposits

Once the annual PUC advice letter on customer deposits on interest rates is received, members will be informed of the newly revised rate to be paid on member deposits if applicable.

V. PAYMENT REQUIREMENTS AND OPTIONS

A. General Rules

1. Payment Media

All members will be permitted to make payments on their accounts using legally acceptable media. However, if a member has twice previously tendered payment which was returned to Morgan County REA unpaid, and the second payment was returned within the most recent twelve-month period, the member will be required to make payment by cash or other guaranteed funds to avoid disconnection; or to be reconnected and avoid future disconnection.

2. Payment Due Date

All bills for service, including any excise tax imposed by a governmental authority, must be received by Morgan County REA or an authorized agent of Morgan County REA by the due date specified on the bill. Final bills, weekly bills, special bills, and bills for connection and reconnection are due upon presentation.

3. Failure to Receive Bill

Bills for electric service shall be considered as received by the member when mailed to or left at the location where service is used or at some other location that has been mutually agreed upon. If the member fails to receive a bill, Morgan County REA, upon request, will issue a duplicate. However, failure to receive a bill does not exempt the member from payment for service rendered.

4. Disputed Bills

If, before payment is due, a member gives notice at Morgan County REA's office that the correctness of the bill is disputed, stating reasons, Morgan County REA will promptly investigate the complaint and render a resolution. However, such notice disputing the correctness of a bill shall not be a sufficient reason for withholding payment. If the bill is found to be incorrect, Morgan County REA will refund the amount of overpayment or credit the amount of overpayment to the next bill rendered.

5. Payment Required Regardless of Interruption

Interruptions in service will not relieve the member from payment of any charges for service supplied, nor will damage to the member's equipment or machinery, or failure of member's installations not the fault of Morgan County REA, relieve the member.

B. Standard Payment Options

1. Budget Billing

A member electing the Budget Billing Plan shall pay a monthly amount equal to a minimum of 1/11th of the sum of (1) the total of the member's most recent twelve months' bills, adjusted to reflect all rate changes which may have become effective during the said period, and (2) other amounts outstanding on the member's account. If a member has not previously been served by Morgan County REA, or if a full twelve months' record is not available, the monthly amount shall equal 1/11th of the sum of an estimated twelve months' bills for said member. Except as otherwise provided herein, said monthly payment shall be made each of the following eleven (11) successive months, with the amount due the twelfth month being a settlement amount equal to the difference between the total of the prior eleven (11) months' payments, and the actual billings for the twelve months. Accounts may be removed from Budget Billing due to failure to pay budgeted amounts. Budget accounts can be re-analyzed mid-year if there are significant changes in usage.

2. Installment Payments for Amounts Arising from Morgan County REA Controlled Events

A member shall be permitted to make installment payments if a bill includes amounts from past billing periods arising solely from events under the control of Morgan County REA. Examples of such events are meter malfunctions, billing errors, Morgan County REA meter reading errors, or failure of Morgan County REA to read a meter when required to do so by the applicable rate schedule; provided, however, that such failure to read the meter shall not apply where the meter is not readily accessible to Morgan County REA. Installment payments under the provisions of this Rule may extend over a period equal in length to the period during which the errors were accumulated and shall bear no interest.

3. Payment Extensions

Upon request of a member whose credit record is satisfactory, Morgan County REA may, at its discretion, extend the period for payment of a bill by the member to not more than fifteen (15) days. A member's credit record shall be considered satisfactory for this purpose where (1) Morgan County REA has served the member for at least one year and (2) Morgan County REA has not discontinued service to the member for non-payment during the past twelve (12) months, and (3) the member shall not have been given more than one payment extension during the previous six (6) consecutive months. Any waiver of Morgan County REA's rights under this Rule shall not be deemed a waiver of Morgan County REA's rights with respect to any other matter or other members.

C. Installment Payment Requirements

1. Installment Plan Qualifications

Installment payment plan arrangements must be made if a residential member fulfills one of the following conditions:

- a. On or before the expiration date of the disconnect notice, pay at least 10% (ten-percent) of the amount shown on the notice, pay all required deposits, agree to pay all future bills by their due date, and enter into a reasonable installment payment plan.
- b. On or before the last day covered by a medical certification, or extension thereof, pays at least 10% (ten-percent) of any amount more than 30 days past due, agrees to pay all future bills by their due date, and enters into a reasonable installment payment plan.
- c. If service has been discontinued for non-payment, pays any required deposits and reconnection charges, at least 10% (ten-percent) of the amount shown on the notice, agrees to pay all future bills by their due date, and agrees to reasonable installment payments, unless previous installment agreements have been breached. Breach of previous installment agreements requires that the member pay all amounts due on the account before service will be reconnected, as addressed in the Reconnection after Broken Arrangement section of these Rules and Regulations.

2. Installment Plan Determination

Installment payment plan arrangements must be made with respect to any of the following amounts as may be applicable at the time the request for arrangements is made. The "arrangement amount" shall be the total of the then-current bill plus the "installment amount". The "installment amount" shall include:

- a. The unpaid remainder of the amount is shown on the disconnect notice.
- b. Any amounts not included in the amount shown on the disconnect notice have since become more than 30 days past due.
- c. Any amounts due for a bill which is past due but is less than thirty (30) days past the due date.
- d. Any amounts due for a bill that has been issued but is not past due.

3. Installment Payment Terms

An installment payment shall consist of equal monthly installments over a period not exceeding six (6) months. The monthly installment payment shall be the "installment amount" divided by the number of months over which the payments are to be made. The minimum installment payment pays at least ten percent (10%) of the "Past Due Amount." The minimum "arrangement amount" shall be the "installment amount" plus the then-new bill.

4. Installment Payment Due Date

A bill's due date must be specifically indicated on the bill, and the due date shall be no earlier than ten (10) days after the mailing or delivery. The installment payment shall be due, together with the new bill (unless the new bill has been made part of the arrangement amount), on the due date of the new bill. The second and succeeding monthly installment payments shall be due, together with the new bill, on the due date of the new bill. Any installment payment not paid by the due date of the new bill shall be considered "in default." Any new bill not paid by the due date shall be considered "past due." Accounts that are either "in default, or "past due" are subject to disconnection as specified in the Disconnection for Broken Arrangement section of these Rules and Regulations.

5. Payment Arrangement Renegotiations

A member whose monthly installment payment is not in default and whose new bill is not past due may renegotiate an installment payment plan arrangement made according to this Rule. A renegotiated installment payment plan arrangement may consist of a lesser installment payment amount to be paid in a greater number of months, provided that the original arrangement amount is paid in no more than six (6) months from the date the original installment payment plan arrangement was entered into.

6. Other Payment Options

Nothing in this Installment Payment Requirement section shall be construed to prevent Morgan County REA from offering other installment payment plan arrangement terms to avoid discontinuance or terms for restoration of service, which offer is at least as favorable to the member as the terms and conditions set forth in this Rule or to which the member agrees.

7. Disconnect for Broken Arrangement

Service may be discontinued to a member whose monthly installment payment remains in default after the tenth day following the mailing or delivery of a notice of broken arrangements or whose new bill becomes more than thirty days past due and to whom a notice of broken arrangements has been mailed or delivered unless the member presents a medical certification as provided elsewhere in this Rule. Requirements for service restoration after a broken arrangement are addressed in the Service Restoration section of these Rules and Regulations.

D. Disconnection Avoidance

1. Full Payment

Service shall not be disconnected in the event a member proffers full payment of an electric bill, by cash or other guaranteed funds, to Morgan County REA. The provision herein shall not preclude Morgan County REA from making reasonable charges for service calls.

2. Payment of 10% of "Past Due Amount" and Installment Payment Initiation

Service shall not be disconnected if a residential member agrees to pay all future bills when due, pays at least 10% (ten-percent) of the past due amount, pays all required deposits, and enters into a reasonable installment payment plan amortizing all other amounts due on the account as described in the Installment Payment Requirements section of these Rules and Regulations.

3. Medical Certificate

In the event that a member cannot pay for service as regularly billed by Morgan County REA or is able to pay for such service but only in reasonable installments and there is a Medical Certificate delivered to Morgan County REA, indicating that disconnection of service would be especially dangerous to the health or safety of the member or a permanent resident of the member's household due to the required use of life-sustaining medical equipment, service will not be disconnected for sixty (60) days from the date of the Medical Certificate, with a possible thirty (30) day extension upon delivery of a second Medical Certificate. The second Medical Certificate must be delivered prior to the expiration date of the initial sixty(60) day, non-disconnect period. A residential member may invoke this provision no more than once during any twelve (12) consecutive months.

4. Installment Payments After Medical Certificate

Any member providing Morgan County REA a valid Medical Certificate or extension thereof may request an installment payment plan arrangement on or before the last day covered by the Medical Certificate or extension thereof.

Any member who has already entered into an installment payment plan arrangement and had not broken arrangements prior to invoking medical certification provisions may renegotiate the arrangement on or before the last day covered by the medical certification or extension thereof. Any member who defaulted on said prior arrangements must pay on or before the last day covered by the medical certificate, or extension thereof, all amounts that would have been paid up to that date had arrangements not been broken, and resume the installment payment plan arrangement to avoid discontinuance of service.

5. Multi-Unit Dwellings

Service may not be discontinued if the party responsible for payment pays the amount on the disconnect notice or the occupants pay each new bill within thirty (30) days of issuance. Occupants shall not be entitled to installment payments or any payment plan other than paying each new bill in full within thirty (30) days of issuance to avoid disconnection. Service may be discontinued without further notice or attempt at personal contact for failure of the occupants to pay each new bill within thirty (30) days of issuance.

6. Continuance of Service Pending Investigation and Hearing

The General Manager of Morgan County REA, or their designee, at their discretion and upon such terms as they prescribe, may order continuance of service pending an investigation and a hearing. Such terms may include, but are not limited to, posting a deposit or timely payment of all undisputed charges, which the General Manager or their designee deems reasonable under the circumstances.

E. Service Restorations

1. Service Restoration after Disconnection

Where service has been disconnected, Morgan County REA shall restore service within twelve (12) hours after elimination by the member of the cause for discontinuance unless extenuating circumstances prevent restoration.

2. Service Restoration Through Full Payment

Service that has been disconnected due to failure to pay or make arrangements for payment of bills for service rendered will be restored if the member pays the amount shown on the disconnect notice, plus any deposit and reconnection charges as may be specifically required by Morgan County REA's tariffs.

3. Residential Service Restoration through Payment of 10% of Past Due, Deposit and Reconnection Charges, and Initiation of Installment Plan

Service which has been terminated due to failure to pay, or make arrangements for payment of, bills for service rendered will be restored if the member agrees to pay all future bills when due, pays all applicable deposits and reconnection charges, pays a minimum of 10% of the past due amount, and enters into a reasonable installment plan as described in these Rules's Installment Payment Requirements section. This provision will not apply when disconnection occurs due to breached arrangements. If service is disconnected after a breach of arrangements, service will be reconnected only after a member has made payment in full of all amounts owed, including any deposits and reconnection charges.

4. Service Restoration through Medical Certificate

Service which has been terminated due to failure to pay, or make arrangements for payment of, bills for service rendered will be restored if the member presents a medical certification, as described in the Medical Certificate section of these Rules and Regulations.

5. Commercial Service Restoration through Partial Payment of Past Due Amount and Initiation of Installment Plan

Service that has been terminated due to failure to pay or make arrangements for, payment of bills for service rendered will be restored if a commercial member agrees to pay all future bills when due, pays all applicable deposits and reconnection charges, pays 50% (fifty-percent) of the amount shown on the notice of termination, and enters into an installment payment plan arrangement to pay the remaining account balance in equal monthly installments over a period of time not to exceed three (3) months. If service is terminated after a breach of arrangements, service will be restored only after the member has made payment in full of all amounts owed, including any deposit and reconnection charges.

6. Service Restoration after Diversion

If the Diversion of electric energy has been confirmed subsequent to disconnection, Morgan County REA will not render service to the member or any other person for the member's use until the member has paid to Morgan County REA all charges relating to the Diversion of electric energy, all required deposits and reconnection charges, all amounts due for service rendered at the same location, and Morgan County REA confirms that the cause for the discontinuance of electric service, if other than for non-payment, has been cured as described in the Diversion section of these Rules and Regulations. Restoration of service after Diversion will only occur during Morgan County REA's stated business hours. Additionally, Morgan County REA reserves the right to require the member to install or have installed at their own expense, equipment necessary to prevent further Diversion of energy as addressed in the Access and Equipment Requirements Following Diversion section of these Rules and Regulations.

7. Service Restoration after Broken Arrangement

If service is discontinued for broken arrangements, Morgan County REA may decline to restore service until all amounts more than thirty (30) days past due have been paid, together with such deposits and reconnection charges as may be provided for in Morgan County REA's tariffs.

However, discontinued service must be restored if the member presents a medical certification as elsewhere provided in this Rule. Service may be discontinued without further notice upon the expiration of such medical certificate or extension thereof. The terms for service restoration shall be the payment of all amounts more than thirty (30) days past due, together with such deposits and reconnection charges as may be provided for in Morgan County REA's tariffs.

VI. BILLING

A. General Rules

1. Bill Frequency and Partial Month Prorations

Bills for service will be rendered monthly unless otherwise specified in these Rules and Regulations or the applicable rate schedule. For billing purposes, the term "month" means the period between any two (2) consecutive regular readings by Morgan County REA of the meters at the member's premises. Meter readings will be taken, as nearly as practicable, on the same date each month. However, Morgan County REA reserves the right to require payment of bills for service at more frequent intervals. In such an event, the meter will be read at the intervals specified by Morgan County REA. All bills will be prorated using the ratio of the number of days in said billing period to a thirty-day (30) month. Bills for demand-energy type rates and the demand component of any rate will not be prorated.

2. Metering

Each class of electric service supplied will be metered and billed separately. A single meter will measure all service to a member under one applicable rate, and meter readings will not be combined for billing purposes. Adjoining properties may be combined on a single meter at the member's expense and served as a single member where such properties are controlled, occupied, and used for farm or commercial purposes by a single enterprise pursuing a single business. Service to the same person at different premises will be considered service to the same member and will be metered and billed separately.

3. Demand Determination

Billing demand will be determined as set forth in the applicable Rate Schedule and Morgan County REA's Rules and Regulations.

4. Budget Billing Plan

An eligible residential member may select The Budget Billing Plan any month during the year. Once selected by an eligible member, the provisions of the plan shall remain in effect until terminated by either the member or Morgan County REA. The terms of payment for this plan shall be as specified in the Payment Requirement and Options section of these Rules and Regulations.

B. Statement Information

1. Information Displayed on Statement

All bills rendered to members for metered service shall show:

- (1) Net amount due
- (2) Beginning and ending meter reading dates for the period during which service was rendered
- (3) A distinct marking to identify an estimated bill
- (4) An appropriate rate or rate code identification
- (5) Last date payable after which the bill becomes past due
- (6) The kilowatt-hours and units of demand, where applicable
- (7) Any multipliers or constant factors used to calculate either kilowatt-hours or demand
- (8) All other essential factors upon which the bill is based

2. Payment and Due Date

The bill's due date shall be no earlier than ten (10) days after the mailing or delivery. Final bills, special bills, and bills for connection and reconnection are due upon presentation.

C. Errors and Adjustments

1. Adjustments for Fast Meters

When a meter is found to have a positive average error that is fast in excess of two percent (2%), Morgan County REA shall refund to the member an amount equal to the excess charged for the kilowatt-hours incorrectly metered for a period equal to one-half of the time elapsed since the last previous test, but not to exceed six (6) months.

2. Adjustments for Slow Meters

When a meter is found to have a negative average error that is slow in excess of two percent (2%), Morgan County REA may make a charge to the member for the kilowatt-hours incorrectly metered for a period equal to one-half of the time elapsed since the last previous test, but not to exceed six (6) months.

3. Adjustments for Incorrect Register Multiplier

If a meter is found to have an incorrect register ratio or multiplier, the error shall be corrected as detailed in VI. Billing section C5 of these Rules and Regulations. Where the error is adverse to the member, Morgan County REA shall refund the member an amount equal to the excess charged for the kilowatt-hours incorrectly metered for the period the meter was used in billing the member. Where the error is adverse to Morgan County REA, Morgan County REA may make a charge to the member for the kilowatt-hours incorrectly metered for the period of time the meter was used in billing the member.

4. Adjustments for Incorrect Register Operation

If a meter is found not to register, to register intermittently, or to partially register for any period, Morgan County REA shall estimate a charge for the kilowatt-hours used by averaging the amounts registered over similar periods or corresponding periods in previous years or by using such other acceptable information as may be available.

5. Refunds or Adjustments for Amounts Arising from Morgan County REA Controlled Events

Morgan County REA will exercise all reasonable means to ensure accurate computation of all bills for electric service. In the event errors in billing occur, Morgan County REA will refund the member the amount of overpayment having occurred therefrom or credit the amount of overpayment to the next bill rendered with such period not to exceed two (2) years. Likewise, Morgan County REA shall have the right to collect from the member the amount of any undercharge with such period not to exceed six (6) months, subject to the Payment Requirement and Options section of these Rules and Regulations, under which members may make installment payments on said undercharge. Installment payments for past due amounts arising from events under the control of Morgan County REA may extend over a period equal in length to the period during which the errors were accumulated and shall bear no interest.

VII. DISCONNECTION

A. General Rules

1. Member Assistance Organizations

Morgan County REA shall make available to any member, on request, a list of all organizations and agencies, public and private, known to Morgan County REA that provide member assistance or benefits relating to electric service.

2. Member Requested Disconnection

A member wishing to discontinue service shall give a minimum of three (3) days' notice to Morgan County REA to that effect, unless otherwise specified in the rate or applicable contract, to allow time for final meter reading and disconnection of service. Where Morgan County REA does not receive such notice, the member will be liable for service until the final reading of the meter. The member will be liable for any property damages sustained as a result of the requested disconnection.

3. Cause for Disconnection

Disconnection of service may occur for non-payment or failure to comply with payment arrangements, as well as failure to comply with Morgan County REA rules pertaining to facilities and equipment access, power quality, safety, Diversion of electric energy, or subterfuge.

B. Disconnection Rules

1. Written Notification

Written notice of proposed disconnection of service must be mailed by first-class mail or sent electronically at least seven (7) days in advance of the proposed disconnection date, advising the member what particular Rule has been violated for which service will be discontinued and the amount past due and the date by which the same shall be paid to avoid disconnection. Requirements for information to be included in the written disconnect notification are detailed in the Disconnection Notice Requirements section of these Rules and Regulations.

This Rule shall not apply where a bypass is discovered on a member's service meter, any hazardous condition exists on a member's premises, or in the case of a member utilizing service in such a manner as to make it dangerous for occupants of the premises, thus making an immediate discontinuance of service to the premises imperative.

2. Third Party Notifications

In the event, a member has previously executed a third-party notification form indicating a third party to whom disconnection notices are to be sent, written notice shall be mailed by first-class mail or delivered at least seven (7) days in advance of the proposed disconnection date to said third party.

3. Multi-Unit Dwelling Notification

If disconnection of service involves individual permanent residents of a multi-unit dwelling where service for the entire multi-unit dwelling is supplied through one meter, and Morgan County REA is aware of such condition, disconnection of service shall occur only after Morgan County REA has given thirty (30) days notice of intent to disconnect to the party responsible for payment of utility bills for the dwelling, and the individual occupants of each unit within the dwelling. Notice to such individual occupants shall be delivered to each dwelling unit or mailed to the addressee or occupant of each unit. In addition, a copy of said notice shall be posted, to the extent possible, in at least one of the common areas of the multi-unit dwelling. An affidavit shall be prepared, setting forth how the utility has delivered, mailed, or posted notices or attempted to do so to the individual dwelling unit occupant.

4. Attempt to Notify

Morgan County REA will not disconnect a member until a reasonable effort has been made to give notice of the proposed discontinuance to the residential household and to any third party whom the member lists on a Third-Party Notification Form.

5. Waiver of Written Notification

Requirements for written notification may be waived:

1. In the opinion of the utility, an immediate disconnection of service to the premises is imperative for safety reasons. Such reasons might include a condition or installation of any part of the member's or the utility's lines, pipes, apparatus, or appliances that is dangerous to any person's life, health, or safety.
2. When any properly constituted governmental authority orders discontinuance due to alleged violations by the member of the ordinances, statutes, or regulations applicable to the service. Morgan County REA shall not be responsible for ascertaining such conditions.
3. When service, having been discontinued in accordance with these Rules and Regulations, is discovered restored by someone other than Morgan County REA.

C. Disconnection Restrictions

1. Weekends and Holidays

Service will not be disconnected between Noon on Friday and 8 a.m. the following Monday or between Noon the day before and 8 a.m. following any federal holiday or Morgan County REA-observed holiday. Disconnection restrictions are not applicable under Morgan County REA's prepaid electric service, known as Prepaid Billing.

2. Amounts Not Yet Appearing on Regular Bill

Service shall not be disconnected for non-payment of any sum due which has not appeared on a regular monthly bill. The due date must be specifically indicated on the bill and shall be no earlier than ten (10) days subsequent to the mailing or delivery of the bill.

3. Amounts Less Than 30 Days Past Due

Service shall not be disconnected for non-payment of any sum that is less than thirty (30) days past due (with the exception of current amounts included in installment payment arrangements), nor shall any notice of intent to disconnect service be sent with respect to any amount that is not thirty days past due.

4. Amounts Due from Other Accounts

Service shall not be disconnected for non-payment of any sum due for service to other account(s) presently or previously held by the member or for amounts due for service to other account(s) where the member was a beneficiary of service unless the amount has first been transferred to the account on which notice may be given and has been displayed on a regular monthly bill. In such event, the amount transferred shall be considered "due" on the regular due date of the bill on which it first appears as a transfer and shall be subject to notice the same as if it had been billed for the first time. However, no amount may be transferred from any other account unless the accounts to and from which the transfer is made are for the same class of service or the member has previously pledged one account to secure the other.

5. Amounts Not Owed by Member of Record

Service shall not be disconnected for non-payment of any amount due on other account(s) on which the member is, or was, neither the member of record nor a guarantor unless the member is or was a user obtaining service through subterfuge without the knowledge or consent of the named member of record.

6. Amount Due from Previous Occupant

Service shall not be disconnected for non-payment of any sum due from a previous occupant of the premises who was the member of record. However, a utility may give notice of intent to discontinue service for a rule violation and, upon expiration of the notice, may decline to continue to furnish service at the same premises if it believes a delinquent member is obtaining the service by subterfuge in any manner. Subterfuge includes, but is not restricted to, an application for service at a given location in the name of another party by a member whose account is delinquent and who continues to reside or do business at the premises.

7. Amounts Due for Non-Utility Services

Service shall not be disconnected for failure to pay any indebtedness except as incurred for utility service rendered by the utility in the State of Colorado.

D. Disconnection Notice Requirements

1. Notice Format and Heading

The Disconnection Notice shall be conspicuous in nature and in easily understood language. The heading of the notice shall be in block capital letters. The heading shall contain, as a minimum, the following warning written in English: THIS IS A FINAL NOTICE OF DISCONNECTION OF ELECTRIC UTILITY SERVICE AND CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION INVOLVING YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS AND REMEDIES. The heading shall also contain the same warning written in Spanish, with an additional sentence at the end of the warning stating in Spanish: IF YOU DO NOT READ ENGLISH, YOU SHOULD REQUEST SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS SPANISH AND ENGLISH TO TRANSLATE THIS NOTICE FOR YOU.

2. Toll-Free Telephone Contact Within the Morgan County REA Territory

The Disconnection Notice shall advise the member how to contact Morgan County REA, without expense to the member of a toll call, from within the utility's service area to resolve any dispute with respect to the amount or date due and with respect to the violation of any rule.

3. Right to Informal Complaint

The Disconnection Notice shall advise the member of their right to make an informal complaint in writing to the General Manager of Morgan County REA or their designee in accordance with the Regulations governing member complaints and related matters. A copy of the complaint procedure may be obtained from Morgan County REA.

4. Right to Hearing by Morgan County REA

The Disconnection Notice shall advise the member that they are entitled to a hearing, in person, before disconnection of service, at a reasonable time and place within ten (10) days of the date of the Notice of Disconnection before the General Manager of Morgan County REA or their designee.

5. Continuance of Service Pending Investigation and Hearing

The Disconnection Notice shall inform the member that the General Manager of Morgan County REA, or their designee, at their discretion and, upon such terms as they may prescribe, may order Morgan County REA to continue service pending an investigation and a hearing. Terms may include, but not be limited to, the posting of a deposit or timely payment of all undisputed charges that the General Manager or their designee determines to be reasonable under the circumstances.

6. Disconnection Avoidance by Paying 10% of "Past Due Amount" and Initiation of Installment Plan

The Disconnection Notice shall advise that a residential member may avoid disconnection of service by paying on or before the expiration date of the notice and enters into an installment payment plan arrangement to pay the remaining account balance in equal monthly installments over a period of time not to exceed six (6) months.

7. Disconnection Avoidance through Medical Certificate

The disconnection notice shall inform the member that in the event of disconnection of service, it would be dangerous to the health of a permanent resident of the household. Members may call Morgan County REA's office to obtain information regarding the potential use of a medical certificate to avoid disconnection.

8. Service Restoration through Payment of 10% of Past Due Amount, Deposits and Reconnection Charges, and Initiation of Installment Plan

The disconnection notice shall inform the member that in the event service is discontinued for non-payment, service may be restored if a residential member pays all applicable deposits and reconnection charges and enters into a reasonable installment payment arrangement.

9. Payment Media Requirements

The disconnection notice shall advise that Morgan County REA may require, as a condition of avoiding disconnection or of restoring service if disconnected, payment only in the form of cash or other guaranteed funds from the member to whom the notice is sent.

10. Member Assistance Organizations

The disconnection notice shall advise members of agencies that provide member assistance with benefits relating to utility service. Unintentional error, by omission or incorrectness, of a utility in providing such information shall not render the notice void.

E. Disconnection Avoidance

The Payment Requirement and Options section of these Rules and Regulations describes payment options to avoid disconnection of service for non-payment.

F. Service Restoration

1. Service Restoration Requirements for Disconnection Due to Non-Payment

Service disconnected for non-payment must be restored as soon as possible after the member satisfies any Service Restoration Payment Options set forth in the Payment Requirements and Options section of these Rules and Regulations.

2. Service Restoration Requirements After Disconnection for Reasons other than Non-Payment

Service disconnected for reasons other than non-payment shall be restored as soon as possible after the member notifies Morgan County REA and the utility confirms that the cause for discontinuance has been cured as set forth in the Payment Requirements and Options section of these Rules and Regulations.

VIII. DIVERSION

A. Definitions

1. Person

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, company, association, joint-stock association, or other legal entity.

2. Member

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "member" means the person responsible for payment for electric service for the premises, and such term includes employees and agents of the member.

3. Electric Service

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "electric service" means the provision of electricity or any other service furnished by Morgan County REA for compensation.

4. Morgan County REA Electric Supply System

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "Morgan County REA electric supply system" includes all wires, conduits, cords, sockets, meters, instruments, equipment, and other devices used by Morgan County REA to provide electric service.

5. Tampering

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "tampering" means the act of damaging, altering, adjusting, or in any manner interfering with or obstructing the action or operation of any meter or other device provided for measuring, registering, determining, or limiting the amount of electricity consumed.

6. Unauthorized Metering

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "unauthorized metering" means the act of removing, moving, installing, connecting, reconnecting, or disconnecting any meter or metering device for electric service by a person other than an authorized contractor, employee, or agent of Morgan County REA, or the breaking of meter seals without prior approval and knowledge of Morgan County REA.

7. Bypassing

For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "bypassing" means the act of attaching, connecting, or in any manner affixing any wire, cord, socket, or other instrument, device, or contrivance to Morgan County REA's supply system or any part thereof in such a manner as to transmit, supply, or use any electric service without passing through an authorized meter or other device provided for measuring, registering, determining, or limiting the amount of electricity consumed.

B. Evidence of Tampering

The existence of electric energy-consuming devices installed ahead of the meter or any tampering or interfering with wires, devices, or equipment connected to Morgan County REA's distribution system or damage to, alteration, or obstruction of any meter (including the breaking of meter seals) which will permit or make possible the use of electric energy without its proper registration on Morgan County REA's meter, shall constitute prima facie evidence of Diversion of electric energy by the member in whose name service is being rendered, or by the person benefiting from the use of such diverted electric energy.

C. Check Metering

In the event Morgan County REA's check meter registers more electric energy in the same interval of time than does the meter installed at the member's premises, and after both meters have been tested and found to be registering within the limits of accuracy prescribed in the Metering Accuracy section of these Rules and Regulations, such fact shall constitute *prima facie* evidence of Diversion of electric energy.

D. Diversion by Member

There is a rebuttable presumption that a member at any premises where bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering is proven to exist, caused or had knowledge of such bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering if the member had controlled access to the part of Morgan County REA's electric supply system on the premises where the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering is proven to exist.

E. Diversion by Tenant or Occupant

Under the applicable Colorado statutes, there is a rebuttable presumption that a tenant or occupant of any premises where bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering is proven to exist, caused or had knowledge of such bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering if the tenant or occupant had controlled access to the part of Morgan County REA's electric supply system on the premises where the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering is proven to exist and if said tenant or occupant was responsible or partially responsible for payment, either directly or indirectly, to Morgan County REA or any other person for electric service provided for the premises.

F. Damages and Payment.

In any instance of bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering, Morgan County REA shall have the right to compute the amount of damages by making an actual count of the member's electric energy-consuming devices, provided that where Morgan County REA is unable to make such count, the computation shall be determined or estimated by other reasonable manner. Such computation of damages shall be made for the period beginning with the date on which the member began receiving electric service at the location where the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering occurred unless evidence proves the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering commenced at a later date and ending with the date on which said wrongful use of electric facilities ceased. Bills for the amount of damages, based on the foregoing computation, plus the costs and expenses for investigation, disconnection, reconnection, service calls, employees, and equipment, shall be immediately due and payable upon presentation to the member, irrespective of Morgan County REA's rights to bring a civil action under Colorado statutes. Morgan County REA may discontinue service to the member because of any act of bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering and shall not render additional service to said member or any other person for the member's use at the same or any other location until the member has paid all bills for the amount of said damages.

G. Restoration after Diversion

If Diversion of electric energy has been confirmed subsequent to discontinuance, Morgan County REA will not render service to the member or any other person for the member's use until the member has paid or made appropriate arrangements (when applicable) for the payment of all charges relating to the diversion of electric energy; all disconnect/reconnection charges; all past-due bills for service rendered at the same location; and any deposits required as set forth in the Payment Requirement and Options section of these Rules and Regulations. Additionally, before power is restored, Morgan County REA must confirm that the cause for the discontinuance of electric service, if other than for non-payment, has been cured and any equipment necessary to prevent further Diversion of electric energy has been installed, as addressed in the Requirements for Service – Access and Equipment Requirements Following Diversion section of these Rules and Regulations. Restoration after Diversion will only occur during Morgan County REA's stated business hours.

IX. QUALITY OF SERVICE

A. Reasonable Diligence in Avoidance of Interruptions

Morgan County REA will exercise reasonable diligence and care to furnish and deliver a continuous and sufficient supply of electric energy to the member and to avoid any shortage or interruptions in delivering this electric power. However, Morgan County REA will not be liable for interruption, shortage, or insufficiency in the supply of electric service or for any injury, loss, or damage occasioned thereby, if same is due to causes or contingencies beyond the control of Morgan County REA including but not limited to accidents, vandalism, breakdown of equipment, acts of God, authority and orders of government, floods, storms, fires, strikes, riots, or war.

B. Planned Temporary Interruptions

Morgan County REA will have the right to temporarily suspend the delivery of electric service whenever necessary to make repairs or improvements to its system.

C. Interruptions Record-Keeping

Morgan County REA shall keep a record of all service interruptions upon its entire system, or major division thereof, including a statement of the time, duration, and cause of any such interruption. All records under this Rule shall be retained by Morgan County REA for the period required in the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Records Retention Schedule.

D. Nominal Delivery Voltage

Morgan County REA's standard nominal voltages for distribution systems are referenced in the Morgan County REA Service Installation Guide.

E. Voltage Consistency

Voltage consistency shall be maintained as referenced in the Morgan County REA Service Installation Guide.

F. Voltage Surveys and Records

Morgan County REA shall provide appropriate voltmeters for all voltages furnished. All voltmeter records shall be available for the period required in the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Records Retention Schedule.

G. Power Factor Requirements

Morgan County REA reserves the right to discontinue service or penalize any member not complying herewith as provided for in Morgan County REA's tariffs.

X. FACILITIES

A. Construction

1. Service Requirements

The electric plant of Morgan County REA shall be constructed, installed, maintained, and operated in accordance with accepted engineering practices in the electric industry to assure, as far as reasonably possible, continuity of service, uniformity in the quality of service furnished, and the safety of persons and property.

2. National Electric Safety Code Compliance

Morgan County REA shall use, as a minimum standard of accepted engineering practice, the edition of the National Electrical Safety Code (ANSI C2) in effect at the time construction or installation of the electric plant commenced. Any electric plant of the utility that is constructed, installed, maintained, and operated in accordance with the National Electrical Safety Code in effect at the time of its construction or installation shall be presumed to comply with accepted engineering practices in the electric industry and the provisions of this Rule.

B. Inspection

Morgan County REA shall inspect its plant and distribution equipment and facilities in such manner and with such frequency as good practice requires maintaining the equipment and facilities in proper condition for use in rendering safe and adequate electrical service.

C. Pole Identification

Morgan County REA shall mark each pole, post, or other structure used for supporting electrical conductors with "coordinate tags" describing structure location, as well as with manufacturer's brand, or other approved devices, which will indicate the year in which such structures were installed.

D. Attachment to Poles

No posters, banners, placards, radio aerials, or any other objects will be attached to the poles of Morgan County REA. Morgan County REA will not install or permit the installation of the member's distribution wires or equipment on Morgan County REA's primary voltage poles.

E. Morgan County REA Property

All lines, wires, apparatus, instruments, meters, transformers, and materials supplied by Morgan County REA at its expense or under its standard policies will remain the property of Morgan County REA. Morgan County REA's property shall not be worked upon or interfered with by the member or other unauthorized persons.

F. Removal of Morgan County REA Owned Facilities

Any equipment, devices, or facilities furnished at the expense of Morgan County REA, or on which Morgan County REA bears the expense of maintenance and renewal, shall remain the property of Morgan County REA and may be removed by Morgan County REA per the Idle Service Policy.

G. Substation Metering

Morgan County REA shall have installed such instruments or watt-hour meters as may be necessary to furnish full information as to monthly purchases of electrical energy. Morgan County REA shall also install such instruments as may be necessary to obtain a daily record of the load upon each of its distribution substations.

H. Transmission Line Extensions

Morgan County REA's Rules and Regulations regarding electric transmission line extensions shall be as set forth in the Service Connection and Line Extension Policies section of these Rules and Regulations.

I. Service Connection and Distribution Line Extension

Morgan County REA's Rules and Regulations regarding service connections shall be as set forth in the Service Connection and Line Extension Policies section of these Rules and Regulations.

J. Service Connections – Installation and Maintenance

Overhead or underground service connections to the member's premises shall be installed and maintained subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Service Connection and Line Extension Policies section of these Rules and Regulations.

K. Temporary Service

If service to a member is temporary or intermittent, the service connection and any line construction involved will be as set forth in the Service Connection and Line Extension Policies section of these Rules and Regulations.

L. Transformer Sizing and Protective Equipment.

Morgan County REA will install, own, and maintain necessary step-down transformers and protective equipment unless otherwise specified in the applicable Rate Schedule(s). Morgan County REA will not be required to install in excess of one KVA of transformer capacity for each horsepower of the member's normal requirements. If the member's power proves to be substantially more or less than set forth in the application for service, Morgan County REA may reduce or increase installed transformer capacity as it deems advisable at the member's expense.

M. Non-Standard Transformers

Morgan County REA will not provide transformers which, in the opinion of Morgan County REA, are of a special type or design, nor provide transformers to serve members at a voltage other than that of Morgan County REA's established distribution system in the locality where service is supplied, nor provide transformers beyond a single voltage transformation from the voltage of Morgan County REA's established primary distribution system.

N. Wiring Inspections

1. Requirement Before Inspection

The electrical wiring of service at premises not connected to Morgan County REA's system shall be inspected and approved by state, county, or local authorities before Morgan County REA renders service. However, Morgan County REA shall not be responsible for the member's failure to obtain said inspection.

2. Morgan County REA Requested Inspection

Morgan County REA may, at its option, cause a wiring inspection to be made of any existing wiring beyond the point of attachment to Morgan County REA facilities if Morgan County REA has reason to believe that dangerous wiring may exist or a diversion of power has occurred. Service may be discontinued in the event faulty wiring or Diversion of power, which creates a hazard to persons, animals, or property, is discovered.

O. Relocation of Facilities

The member shall reimburse Morgan County REA for any cost associated with the relocation of facilities made at the member's request for the member's convenience. Except in emergencies, meters and other equipment of Morgan County REA will be removed or relocated only by employees of Morgan County REA. Morgan County REA may require a sufficient construction deposit to pay for all estimated costs of the change or relocation as specified in the Morgan County REA Installation Guide (located on the Internet). If the member removes a meter or other facilities of Morgan County REA due to an emergency, said member will be required to notify Morgan County REA immediately.

P. Damage to Facilities

The party shall be responsible for any damage to, or loss of, Morgan County REA's property caused by or arising out of the acts, omissions, or negligence of, or the misuse or unauthorized use of Morgan County REA's property by the party. The party shall pay the cost of such loss and repairing such damage. The party shall be held responsible for injury to Morgan County REA's employees if caused by the party's acts, omissions, or negligence.

Q. Space for Facilities Required by Member

At the request of Morgan County REA, the member shall furnish and maintain indoor space and facilities for installing Morgan County REA instrument transformers and other equipment in those cases where the member requires this type of installation. Member requests for the installation of indoor facilities on their premises shall be at the discretion of Morgan County REA.

The member shall adhere to the installation and maintenance spacing requirement for equipment and facilities to provide service to the member and are located within the member's property as referenced in the Morgan County REA Service Installation Guide.

R. Member Owned Equipment

1. Installation and Regulatory Compliance

All wiring and electrical equipment beyond the point of attachment with Morgan County REA facilities will be furnished, installed, and maintained at all times by the member in conformity with good electrical practice and with the requirements of the National Electrical Code, the National Electrical Safety Code, municipal or other local electric wiring ordinances, and in accordance with the Facilities section of these Rules and Regulations.

2. Furnishing, Installation, and Maintenance

All electric wiring, conduits, cables, and apparatus, including necessary protective appliances essential to utilization of service beyond the point of attachment to Morgan County REA's facilities, shall be furnished, installed, and maintained at the member's expense, except as specifically provided by the Contract for Service, applicable Rate Schedule, or the Morgan County REA Installation Guide (located on the Internet).

3. Lines Beyond Point of Attachment to Morgan County REA Facilities Facilities

Except as otherwise provided in these Rules and Regulations, any overhead or underground distribution lines required beyond the point of attachment to Morgan County REA's facilities shall be installed, owned, operated, and maintained by the member. In such cases, electric energy will be metered at a location designated by Morgan County REA, which may be at a point other than the connection point between the member's and Morgan County REA's systems. The member will provide, install, operate, and maintain protective devices as specified and approved by Morgan County REA.

4. Transformers Beyond the Point of Attachment to Morgan County REA Facilities.

The member will provide, own, operate, and maintain all other transformers as required beyond the point attachment with Morgan County REA's facilities.

5. Non-Standard Voltage Transformer

If the member requires or elects to use voltages other than the standard secondary and primary voltages of Morgan County REA's established distribution system, the special transformers will be installed, operated, and maintained by and at the expense of the member.

6. Equipment Requiring Close Voltage Regulation

In every case, the member will confer with Morgan County REA before any special apparatus or apparatus requiring extremely close voltage regulation is connected. In the event equipment connected to Morgan County REA's lines impairs service to other members, Morgan County REA reserves the right to require correction of the condition by the member. Morgan County REA may refuse or discontinue service to such equipment until the member corrects the situation. In certain circumstances, the use of equipment having fluctuating or intermittent load characteristics or having an abnormal effect on voltage may necessitate the furnishing of service to such equipment through isolated transformers and separate service loops or installing transformer and line capacity in excess of that normally required by non-fluctuating or non-intermittent equipment to protect the quality of service to the member, or other members. Morgan County REA reserves the right to charge the member the full cost of facilities to provide any special service required by such equipment and prevent any impairment in service to the member or other members. Where the member is billed under a measured demand, Morgan County REA may determine the billing demand on a shorter interval than specified in the applicable Rate Schedule, or may make other suitable adjustment(s) irrespective of any provision relative to billing demand determination contained in such rate.

7. Harmonic Distortion

Morgan County REA cannot render service to any member for the operation of any device that has a detrimental effect on the service provided to other members. The member's use of service shall not exceed the limits for harmonic distortion set forth in IEEE Recommended Practices and Requirements for Harmonic Control in Electric Power Systems. Where the member's use of service produces unacceptable levels of harmonic distortion, the member shall furnish at their own expense suitable equipment that reduces the level of harmonic distortion within the limits set forth in Morgan County REA Service Installation Guide, as requested and within the time frame established by Morgan County REA. Morgan County REA will cooperate with its members when consulted concerning the intended use of any electric device.

8. Morgan County REA Service Calls

Morgan County REA may require the member to pay for service interruption calls made by employees of Morgan County REA to correct faulty electric facilities located beyond the point of attachment to Morgan County REA facilities.

XI. METERING

A. General Rules

1. Ownership and Maintenance

All meters used by Morgan County REA for billing purposes shall be furnished, installed, and maintained at the expense of Morgan County REA.

2. Meter Location and Accessibility

Meter locations shall be such that the meters are easily accessible for reading, testing, and servicing. Meters shall be installed on poles or near Morgan County REA's transformers. In any event, meters shall be located in accordance with accepted safe practices and Morgan County REA's Power Requirements for Electric Service. Morgan County REA shall specify the location of the electrical meter. Meters shall not be located where visits of a meter reader or serviceperson will cause unreasonable annoyance or inconvenience to the member.

3. Meter Reading Schedule

Morgan County REA will read meters at regular intervals as nearly as possible. Morgan County REA shall not be required to read meters at a time other than regular meter reading periods, except in case of connection or disconnection of service. If weather or other conditions beyond the reasonable control of Morgan County REA make it impractical to read the member's meter, the member's bill will be estimated based on the member's use in a similar period.

4. Meter Measurement Indication

Where applicable, each service meter shall clearly indicate the kilowatt-hours and units of demand for which a service charge is made to the member. In those cases where the register and chart reading must be multiplied by a constant or factor to obtain the units consumed, the factor, factors, or constant shall be clearly marked at the point of metering.

5. Error Adjustment Calculation

The Billing Adjustment section of these Rules and Regulations defines the method of calculating adjustments for metering errors.

6. Master Metering of Multi-Family Services

Service to motels, hotels, campgrounds, and other facilities providing lodging or space for itinerants may be master-metered. Apartments, mobile home parks, and other multi-family rental units may also be master metered by Morgan County REA upon request of the owner of the facility. Otherwise, each individual residence or living unit shall be separately metered and billed under the appropriate rate schedule.

7. Sub-Metering for Resale

Sub-metering, which is the resale of electricity by a master-metered member, is prohibited. However, nothing in this Rule shall be construed to prohibit a master-metered member from check-metering tenants, lessees, and other persons to whom the electricity is ultimately distributed on property owned or controlled by the master-metered member, provided the purpose of said check-metering is to reimburse the master-metered member for kilowatt- hours used by each tenant and lessee and, provided further, that the master-metered member shall not receive more than is necessary to pay the master-metered bill.

8. Transformer Losses for Primary Service

If service is supplied at primary voltage, Morgan County REA, at its option, may install its meters on the secondary side of the transformers, in which case transformer losses and other losses between the point of attachment to Morgan County REA facilities and the meter will be computed and added to the readings of such meters. If service is supplied at secondary voltage, Morgan County REA, at its option, may meter the energy at primary voltage, in which case transformer losses and other losses between the meter and the point of attachment to Morgan County REA's system will be computed and subtracted from the readings of such meters.

B. Metering Definitions

1. Meter Creep

A meter creeps when, with all load wires disconnected, the moving element makes one complete revolution in ten minutes or less.

2. Light and Heavy Load Determination

Light loads shall be construed to mean approximately five percent (5%) to ten percent (10%) of the nameplate-rated capacity of the meter. Heavy loads shall be construed to indicate not less than sixty percent (60%) or more than one hundred percent (100%) of the nameplate-rated capacity of the meter.

3. Average Error Calculation

The average error of the meter shall be defined as the arithmetic average of the percent registration at light load and heavy load, giving the heavy load registration a weight of four and the light load registration a weight of one.

C. Metering Accuracy

1. Operational Requirements

Morgan County REA will exercise reasonable care to determine and maintain the general accuracy of all electric meters in use. No meter with an incorrect register constant, test constant, gear ratio, dial train, or registers upon no load (creeps) shall be placed in service or allowed to remain in service without proper adjustment and correction.

2. Requirements for Service Watt-Hour Meters

No service watt-hour meter with an error in the registration of more than plus or minus two percent (2%) at either light or heavy load shall be placed in service. Demand meters may have an allowable error of not more than two percent (2%) of full-scale deflection, except that the allowable error for thermo-type meters may be three percent (3%). It shall be adjusted if a meter exceeds these limits upon installation, periodic, or other tests.

3. Requirements for Meter Used with Instrument Transformer

Meters used with instrument transformers or shunts shall be adjusted so that the overall accuracy of the metering installation will meet the requirements of this Rule.

D. Standard Meter Testing

1. Meter Testing Facilities and Equipment

a. Compliance with Commission Testing Rules

Morgan County REA, even though exempt from Commission regulation, will provide such testing apparatus and equipment as may be necessary to comply with the rules of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Colorado and the provisions hereof. Such equipment and facilities shall be acceptable to the Commission and shall be available at all reasonable times for the inspection of its authorized representatives.

b. Testing Instruments

Morgan County REA shall maintain such portable indicating electrical testing instruments or watt-hour meters of suitable range and type for testing service watt-hour meters, switchboard instruments, recording voltmeters, and other electrical instruments in use, as may be deemed necessary.

2. Meter Test Board Calibration

Each meter test board shall at all times be accompanied by a certificate or calibrating card signed by a standardizing laboratory, giving the date when it was last certified and adjusted. Records of certification and calibrations shall be kept on file in the office of Morgan County REA for the life of the instruments.

3. Portable Testing Instrument Calibration

When used for testing purposes, all portable indicating electrical testing instruments, such as voltmeters, ammeters, and watt-meters, shall be calibrated regularly and frequently, using suitable reference standards. Instruments used should be checked at least quarterly, and if found appreciably in error at zero, or more than one percent (1%) of full-scale value at commonly used scale deflection, be adjusted and certified by a laboratory. In any case, the instrument shall be checked at least annually.

4. Equipment and Test Records

Complete records shall be maintained on each meter owned or used by Morgan County REA. Such records shall show the date of purchase, manufacturer's serial number, record of the present location, and date and results of the last test performed by Morgan County REA. This record shall be maintained for the life of the meter.

5. Testing on Installation

All service watt-hour meters shall be tested and adjusted to register accurately to within the limits specified by the Accuracy Requirements for Service Watt-hour Meters section of the Public Utilities Commission's Rules and Regulations and to otherwise conform to the requirements of that Rule, either before installation or within sixty (60) days after installation.

6. Periodic Meter Testing Schedule

All meters and advanced metering infrastructure installed to measure electric energy used by members shall be tested periodically at intervals not exceeding those provided for in the test schedules defined in this Rule.

- a. All self-contained electronic metering with one multiplier will be tested or replaced at least once in twelve (12) years.
- b. All instrument transformer-rated electronic metering with multipliers greater than one (1) will be tested or replaced at least once every five (5) years.
- c. All instruments transformer-rated electronic metering with multipliers greater than one (1) and are in the top one hundred (100) meters based on revenue over the past twelve (12) months will be tested or replaced at least once every year.

E. Member Requested Testing

1. Requirements for Testing at Member Request

Upon the request of a member, Morgan County REA shall make a test of the accuracy of any electric service meter, free of charge, provided that the meter has not been tested within the twelve months prior to such request and provided that the member will accept the results of the said test as a basis for the settlement of the difference claimed. A written report giving the results of such test shall be made to the member requesting same, the original record being kept on file at the office of Morgan County REA for at least two years. Morgan County REA shall not, without reasonable cause, be required to test the accuracy of any electric meter that has been tested within the most recent twelve-month period, and additional testing will be performed at the member's expense unless the meter is found to be faulty.

2. Testing Requested by Other Authorities

Any service watt-hour meter of Morgan County REA may be tested by, or on behalf of, a proper authority upon written application by the member, provided the testing is performed at the expense of the party making the request. Any money collected for testing shall be refunded to the member if the meter is found fast. This Rule and the charges apply only when there is a dispute between the member and Morgan County REA regarding the meter's accuracy.

3. Average Error Testing

If any service watt-hour meter tested by either Morgan County REA or proper authority, upon the member's request, is found to be more than two percent (2%) fast at any load, additional tests shall be made to determine the average error of the meter.

4. Records of Tests and Meters

Whenever a meter is tested, either on request or upon complaint, the test record shall include the information necessary for identifying the meter, the reason for making the test, the reading of the meter if removed from service, the result of the test, together with all data taken at the time of the test in sufficiently complete form to permit the convenient checking of the methods employed and the calculations made. Such records shall be retained as required in the Morgan County Rural Electric Association Records Retention Schedule.

XII. Accidents

A. Reporting

Morgan County REA shall report to the proper authority, as soon as possible, each accident happening in connection with the operation of its property, facilities, or service, wherein any person is killed or seriously injured or whereby any serious property damage has resulted. Such report shall describe in detail:

1. Date, time, place, location
2. Extent of injuries and other damage
3. Names of all parties involved
4. Type of accident

In addition to the above, Morgan County REA shall immediately, upon the setting of any formal investigation of the accident, notify the proper authorities of the date, time, and place of such investigation.

B. Liability for Contingencies Beyond Morgan County REA Control

Morgan County REA shall not be liable for injury to persons, damage to property, monetary loss, or loss of business caused by accidents, acts of God, fires, floods, strikes, wars, authority or order of the government, or any other causes and contingencies beyond its control.

C. Liability for Interference with Morgan County REA Facilities

Morgan County REA shall not be held liable for injury to persons or damage to property caused by its lines or equipment when contacted or interfered with by guy wires, ropes, aerial wires, attachments, trees, structures, or other objects not the property of Morgan County REA which cross over, through, or are in close proximity to Morgan County REA's lines and equipment. Morgan County REA should be given adequate notice before trees overhanging or in close proximity to Morgan County REA's lines or equipment are trimmed or removed or when guys, radio aerials, wires, ropes, drain pipes, structures, or other objects are installed or removed near Morgan County REA's lines or equipment. However, Morgan County REA assumes no liability whatsoever because of such notice.

D. Liability for Member Caused Damage or Injury

The member shall be responsible for any injury to persons or property damage occasioned or caused by the acts, omissions, or negligence of the member or any of his agents, employees, or licensees in installing, maintaining, operating, or using any of the member's lines, wires, equipment, machinery, or apparatus, and for injury and damage caused by defects in the same.

