

7.00 CUSTOMER DEPOSITS

CenterPoint Energy policies and procedures are consistent with Minnesota Rules 7820.4100 - 7820.4700, Deposit and Guarantee Requirements.

7.01 Amount of Deposit

CenterPoint Energy may require a new or an existing customer to make a cash deposit to CenterPoint Energy as security for the payment for gas service. The cash deposit shall not exceed an amount equal to the applicant's estimated two (2) month's bill or customer's highest bill for two (2) months. CenterPoint Energy does not require a deposit or guarantee of any customer or applicant who has established good credit with CenterPoint Energy.

CenterPoint Energy will issue a non-negotiable receipt for each cash deposit received.

Effective December 1, 2005 and continuing through the remaining portion of the 2005 – 2006 Cold Weather Rule period, Deposits will not be required from customers who have received LIHEAP benefits during the 2005 – 2006 Cold Weather Rule period.

7.02 Interest on Deposit

Interest shall be paid on deposits in excess of \$20. The rate of interest must be set annually and be equal to the weekly average yield of one-year United States Treasury securities adjusted for constant maturity for the last full week in November. The Interest rate must be rounded to the nearest tenth of one percent. By December 15 of each year, the Commissioner of Commerce shall announce the rate of interest that must be on all deposits held during all or part of the subsequent year. Interest will be credited to the customer's account, credited to the unpaid final bill, or refunded to the customer. CenterPoint Energy will calculate interest from the date the deposit is received to the date the deposit is applied to the customer's account or refunded to the customer.

CenterPoint Energy will calculate interest as of December 31st of each year for each deposit and will credit the depositor's account for this amount.

CenterPoint Energy will review the necessity for each deposit at least annually and will refund deposits with accrued but uncredited interest, where the deposit is deemed unnecessary.