

ALERT
MD PSC FINAL REGULATIONS
Extreme Weather Termination Restrictions

The Public Service Commission has made emergency regulations on extreme weather restrictions permanent. The regulations prohibit service terminations in both hot and cold extreme weather conditions. The purpose is to protect residential ratepayers from service termination when dangerously cold or hot weather is likely in the immediate future. These regulations are a result of a 2009 law to extend extreme weather restrictions on service terminations.

The proposed regulations prohibit terminations of both gas and electric service on any day for which the weather forecast made at 6:00 a.m. has a high temperature of 32 degrees or lower in winter for the next 72 hours. In summer months, this restriction applies to all electric service and gas service (if used for cooling and the utility is on notice) if the temperature forecast at 6 a.m. is for 95 degrees or higher in summer for the next 72 hours. For example, if on Monday morning the forecast calls for a high of 90 degrees on Monday, but 97 degrees on Tuesday, terminations are prohibited for Monday. On Tuesday morning, the companies must check the forecasts for the next three days again. If the forecasted high is still 95 or higher on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, terminations are prohibited on Tuesday. If, however, the forecast changes by 6 a.m. on Wednesday and the high temperature forecast is below 95 for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, then the companies are permitted to terminate service that Wednesday.

These regulations provide temporary protection from service terminations for health and safety reasons. OPC encourages all customers to work out alternate payment plans with the utilities, and if unsuccessful, the PSC, if utility bills are past due, and to check eligibility for energy assistance.

The regulations can be found at COMAR 20.31.03.03 and .04.