

SECTION 33
RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICITY LIFELINE PROGRAM

33.1 PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to provide assistance to residential customers who qualify for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP).

33.2 PROGRAM AVAILABILITY

This program is available to customers taking residential service on a continuing year-round basis who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A. The Customer's household qualifies for assistance from HEAP;
- B. The Customer does not receive a housing subsidy which limits the household's total housing cost, including utilities, to a fixed percentage of the household's income.
- C. The program year begins October 1 of each year and ends September 30 of the following year. Eligible enrollments will be accepted beginning October 1 of each program year.

33.3 PROGRAM PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

All participating customers must agree to each of the following conditions in order to receive benefits under the Program:

- A. Waive confidentiality restrictions on the release of income and electric usage data for the purposes of calculating electricity credits under the Program;
- B. Identify a household member in whose name electricity service is provided;
- C. Accept all no-cost, demand-side management measures and programs available from CMP for that dwelling or rental unit unless the participant is a renter and the landlord withholds any required consent.
- D. Only the customer's residential usage may be considered when calculating the ELP benefit amount in accordance with Subsection 33.5. below. When there is significant and clearly distinguishable nonresidential use combined with the customer's residential use on the same meter, CMP will determine the amount of residential use by conducting a usage analysis. When this provision is invoked, CMP will notify the customer in writing of the results of the usage analysis and will inform the customer of their right to dispute the results. The Company will maintain a record of the analysis for at least one year after it is no longer used for the ELP benefit determination.

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33.4 ENROLLMENT AND CERTIFICATION

Enrollment, eligibility certification, benefit determination, and any other administrative duty necessary to carry out this program will be performed by Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) and other entities that may contract with MSHA, such as Community Action Agencies (CAP's).

Requests for usage information will be sent to CMP once the HEAP application is certified for a customer who is potentially eligible for the Program.

The Company will process these requests for usage information within five (5) business days of receipt and will send usage information to the CAP agencies. Enrollments for eligible customers will be returned to the Company for processing on the customer's account.

33.5 ANNUAL ELP BENEFIT

Participating customers will receive their ELP benefit in the form of credits on their electric bill. Credits will be applied to a customer's account until the customer's total ELP benefit for that program year has been exhausted. The customer is responsible for all charges in excess of the available ELP benefit.

A customer's ELP benefit shall be determined as follows:

A. For participants with income at or below 75% of the federal poverty guidelines:

The percentage of income to be used when calculating the credit amount is 4.0% when the estimated annual usage is 5,000 kWh or less and 9.0% when the estimated annual usage is 14,000 kWh or more. For usages in between, the following formula shall be used:

$$\frac{\text{Estimated annual use in kWh} - 5000}{9000} \times 5\% + 4.0\% = \% \text{ of income}$$

For participants with income above 75% of the federal poverty guidelines:

The percentage of income to be used when calculating the credit amount is 5.5% when the estimated annual usage is 5,000 kWh or less and 9.0% when the estimated annual usage is 14,000 kWh or more. For usages in between, the following formula shall be used:

$$\frac{\text{Estimated annual use in kWh} - 5000}{9000} \times 5\% + 5.5\% = \% \text{ of income}$$

Estimated annual use is based on the prior year's usage for the dwelling unit.

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33.5 ANNUAL ELP BENEFIT (Continued)

- B. Annual household income x % income = participant co-payment
- C. Estimated annual bill - participant co-payment = annual ELP benefit
- D. The maximum allowable ELP benefit for any program year will not exceed \$600.00. All calculated benefits that exceed \$600.00 will be capped at \$600.00.
- E. If a customer's entire ELP benefit has not been exhausted by the end of a program year, any remaining credit will be applied in a lump-sum to the customer's account.
- F. If the annual credit is calculated to be less than \$25.00, the customer will not be enrolled in the program.
- G. The customer's ELP benefit will be adjusted during the program year in the event that the customer qualifies for Oxygen Pump or Ventilator benefits under Subsection 33.6 below.

33.6 PARTICIPANTS USING OXYGEN PUMPS OR VENTILATORS

The Oxygen Pump and Ventilator benefit provides financial assistance to participants who, for health-related reasons, must use an oxygen pump or ventilator at least (8) hours each day. This additional feature under the current ELP is effective beginning October 1, 2006 for oxygen pumps and October 1, 2007 for ventilators.

The customer must first qualify for the ELP in order to be considered for the oxygen pump or ventilator benefit.

As more fully described in Section 4(K) of Chapter 314 of the Rules and Regulations of the Maine Public Utilities Commission, customers that use an oxygen pump or ventilator for at least eight (8) hours each day will be given an additional ELP benefit, calculated in accordance with Section 4(K) of Chapter 314.

Certification to receive this benefit must be renewed annually for each program year. The certification form must be completed and signed by the physician and may be submitted to the Company prior to October 1, but no earlier than September 1 each year.

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33.7 ARREARS REPAYMENT

Cancelled.

33.8 USAGE REDUCTION MEASURES

Cancelled.

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33.9 ELECTRICITY LIFELINE PROGRAM CHARGES

The Electricity Lifeline Program (ELP) charge of \$0.000882 per kWh is included in the rate schedules of the rates classes provided below.

Rate A
Rate A-TOU
Rate A-LM
Rate R
Rate R-TOU
Rate SGS
Rate SGS-TOU
Rate MGS-S
Rate MGS-S-TOU
Rate MGS-P
Rate MGS-P-TOU
Rate IGS-S-TOU
Rate IGS-P-TOU
Rate LGS-S-TOU
Rate LGS-P-TOU
Rate AL
Rate SL

The rate is applicable to core rate schedules and to targeted rates, where, but for the targeted rate, the customer would take service under the core rate class.

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Cancelled.

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