

OFFICE OF POLICY, PROCEDURES, AND TRAINING

POLICY BULLETIN #24-05-OPE (*This Policy Bulletin replaces PB #10-43-OPE*)

PAYMENT OF UTILITY ARREARS FOR SERVICE PROVIDED BY PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES

Date: February 6, 2024	Subtopic(s): Utilities
	The purpose of this policy bulletin is to inform all Benefits Access Center (BAC) and HIV/AIDS Service Administration (HASA) staff that HRA may provide emergency assistance to individuals to pay arrears from a Public Utility Company (PUC) other than Con Edison, National Grid, or PSE&G, to prevent a utility turn-off, or to reinstate utilities already turned off, provided that the Benefits Opportunity Specialist (BOS)/Worker confirms that PUC status was designated by the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC).
See Attachment A Sample of Independent Billing Company statement. See Attachment B Sample Final Termination Notice	Some housing developments have been designated as PUCs and are authorized by the PSC to install individual utility meters for each rental unit in their buildings. In addition to rent, the management company includes a separate utility charge either on the rent statement to the tenant or as a separate bill. The PUC may also use a separate independent billing company to issue utility statements to the tenants (see an example on Attachment A). These PUCs (or their designated billing company) also have the authority to issue utility turn-off notices directly to tenants for non-payment of utilities (see a sample notice on Attachment B).
See Attachment C Instructions on how to search the PSC website.	To confirm that a utility shut-off notice from any utility vendor other than Con Edison is from an authorized PUC, the Utility Liaison must contact the FIA Call Center who will retrieve the submetering order information from the internet. The Utility Liaison must provide both the service address and the landlord's name when contacting the FIA Call Center. Locations that have internet access can get information directly from the PSC website: <u>https://www.dps.ny.gov</u> (See instructions for searching the PSC website on Attachment C).

To provide emergency assistance based on utility arrears owed to a PUC, the BOS/Worker must:

- Refer to <u>PD #17-24-ELI</u> for complete information about the utility process.
- ensure that there is a turn-off notice in effect.
 - request a breakdown of arrears.
 - have the applicant/participant attempt to negotiate a deferred payment agreement with the landlord.
 - request verification of any deferred payment agreements negotiated.
 - do a management test to determine if funds were mismanaged:
 - If there was no mismanagement of funds, payment to prevent a shut-off can be issued as Special Grant Code 50 (Non-Recoupable Utility Grant [No Mismanagement]).
 - If funds were mismanaged, payment can be issued as Special Grant Code 41 (Utility Grant to Prevent Turnoff or Restore Utility Services [Mismanagement]) and follow recoupment instructions, according to current policy (see <u>PD #17-24-ELI</u>).
 - only issue an emergency arrears payment for up to the last four months that fall within the last 10-month period.

A condition of the utility restriction/direct vendor payment process is that all future utility bills must be sent directly to HRA for payment, if the PUC does not provide a bill directly to the tenant that is separate from the rent, future energy allowances should not be restricted. The tenant must be advised to pay the energy allowance directly to the PUC.

A Request for a Utility (Natural Gas, Utility Heat, Lights, Electricity) Grant and Acknowledgement for Applicants and Participants (FIA-1104f) must be issued to exempt any utility arrears in excess of what HRA is authorized to pay from collection for as long as they continue to receive cash assistance.

Effective Immediately

Related Item

PD #17-24-ELI Revision to the utility process

Attachments:

Attachment ARent and Meter Reading StatementAttachment BFinal Termination NoticeAttachment CAccessing the PSC Website

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 Please make electric bill payment separate from rental payments.

 Checks/money orders should be made payable to BRC
 , LP.

 You must fill out money orders and/or checks correctly.
 Any returned checks or money orders will incur a late fee.

When mailing payments, please mail to the billing address to the attention of -Lillian Contreras, VP of Housing. Otherwise, payments are accepted in rental payment box in the lobby of building at the front desk.

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- A. <u>Searches covering documents submitted within the last 30 days</u>
- 1. Press **Search** to go to the **Search/Commissions Files** home page.

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2. Select Case Related Documents from the Search Type selections.

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Click here Search Type: © Case Numb Case Related Documents Keyword Search
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If you know the Public Service Commission Case number (99-X-9999 or 99-99999 format) enter it here.
99-X-9999 or 99-99999 Search
 Help interpreting the search results from a "Case number" search. Help with Case Number format

3. Enter the landlord name or building address in the Search field.

Department of Public Service Search / Commission Files Search Type: ○ Case Number
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 Keyword Search Case Related Documents* *searches document text for the past 30 days. To search beyond 30 days, use the Advanced Search. This will search the text found inside Commission Case Related documents. hoe avenue × Search Find the submetering order in the **Document Type** column. Select the order by click on the blue hyperlink in the **Document Tile** column. **Department of Public Service** Search Login Advanced Search Help Advanced Search Search Criteria Selected: Date Filed From: 11/12/2023; Date led To: 12/12/2023; Full Text: hoe avenue Public Comments rc Result - 7 Found Search: Search All All ~ Search Search Date Filed 🔻 Filing On Behalf Of Filing No. 🕈 File Size Document Type 🛊 **Document Title** Case/Matter 🛊 **File Name** ŧ PPA Petition Attachments PPA Petition Attachments PPA9 (cont.) - PPA 11/23/2023 Petitions Prattsburgh Preservation Alliance <u>21-00749</u> PPA9 (cont.) ¿ PPA 13-7 (R A 7.97 MB <u>127</u> 🗹 13-7 (REDACTED) EDACTED).pdf DPS-056 Attachment 1.xls 11/21/2023 DPS-056 Attachment 1 23-G-0419 2.85 MB Exhibits New York State Department of Public Service <u>59</u> 🗗 х DPS-340 Attachment 2.xl 11/21/2023 Exhibits DPS-340 Attachment 2 New York State Department of Public Service 23-G-0419 59 14 7.43 MB SX DPS-056 Attachment 1.xls 11/21/2023 DPS-056 Attachment 1 New York State Department of Public Service 23-E-0418 2 85 MB Exhibits 61 14 х DPS-340 Attachment 2.xl DPS-340 Attachment 2 7.43 MB 11/21/2023 Exhibits New York State Department of Public Service 23-E-0418 61 🖪 SX Appendix I_Attachment 1 Plans and Propos Appendix I Attachment 1 Soil Handling and 11/20/2023 Empire Offshore Wind LLC 21-T-0366 <u>82</u> 🗹 _Soil Handling and Erosio A 953 KB **Erosion Control Plan** als n Control Plan.pdf

- B. <u>Searches covering documents submitted more than 30 days ago</u>
- 1. Select **Document** from the Search selections.

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2. Enter the client's address or the landlord's name in the Enter Full Title or any portion of the text contained in the Title field.

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Instruction. on How to Search the PSC Website

Attachment 🖌

3. Find the submetering order in the **Document Type** column. Select the order by click on the blue hyperlink in the **Document Tile** column.

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01/13/2012	Notices	Union Grove Associates, LLC, Errata Notice	Public Service Commission	<u>10-E-0489</u>	10 🖪	10E0489_Errata.pdf	2	19 KB
07/25/2011	Correspondence	AMPS submits its Submetering Identification Form.	American Metering & Planning Services, Inc.	<u>10-E-0489</u>	<u>8</u> 🖪		₽	67 KB
07/01/2011	Petitions	AMPS submits an amendment to its original petition.	American Metering & Planning Services, Inc.	<u>10-E-0489</u>	8 🖪		Þ	34 KB
06/29/2011	Correspondence	AMPS submits a request to amend petition.	American Metering & Planning Services	<u>10-E-0489</u>	ZC	AMPS Amendment to pet ition.pdf	Þ	31 KB
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05/17/2011	Petitions	Addendum to the petition	American Metering & Planning Services	<u>10-E-0489</u>	5 🗹	KMBT2222011051703021 8.pdf	N	84 KB

C. Searches by Landlord

Attachment C

1. Select **Documents** and then click the **Add/remove** button under Company name in the **Case Matter Search** or **Document Search**.

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2. Enter the landlord's name and press **Search**.

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Attachment C

3. The landlord will populate in the **Companies/Organizations** field.

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4. Check the box next to the landlord's name and press the **Select**.

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5. The landlord's name will be filled in the **Filed By Company/Organization** box.

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6. Press **Search** and then click on the **blue Case/Matter** hyperlink to go to the documents listing.

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7. Find the submetering order by click the **blue** hyper link under **Document Title**.

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1	02/17/2012	Orders	Union Grove Associates, LLC, Order Regarding Submetering Electricity at 1468 Hoe Avenue a/k/a Rev	Public Service Commission	11 13	368_10e04 89.pdf		24.18	