

Amendment No. 551

Senate Amendment to Assembly Bill No. 215 First Reprint (BDR 58-593)

Proposed by: Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy**Amends:** Summary: No Title: No Preamble: No Joint Sponsorship: No Digest: No

ASSEMBLY ACTION			Initial and Date	SENATE ACTION			Initial and Date
Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	Adopted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lost	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	Concurred In	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	Receded	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) *green bold italic underlining* is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~purple double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment; (5) orange double underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment; and (6) *green bold underlining* is newly added transitory language.

JMM/MSN



Date: 5/3/2011

A.B. No. 215—Revises provisions governing utilities. (BDR 58-593)



ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 215—COMMITTEE
ON COMMERCE AND LABOR

MARCH 1, 2011

Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing utilities. (BDR 58-593)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to utilities; authorizing certain public utilities that purchase natural gas for resale and electric utilities to request approval from the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada to make quarterly rate adjustments based on deferred accounting; requiring that written notices which are provided to customers of certain public utilities that purchase natural gas for resale and electric utilities contain information about the review of certain quarterly rate adjustments by the Commission; authorizing the Commission to allow public utilities that purchase natural gas for resale and electric utilities to apply for certain additional rate adjustments upon a showing of good cause; prohibiting public utilities which purchase natural gas for resale and electric utilities from applying for certain annual rate adjustments after receiving approval from the Commission to make quarterly rate adjustments based on deferred accounting; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes certain public utilities that purchase natural gas for resale and certain electric utilities to use deferred accounting to reflect changes in the cost of purchased natural gas, fuel or power. (NRS 704.185, 704.187) **Section 5** of this bill authorizes a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and which adjusts its rates on a quarterly basis based on the fluctuating price of natural gas to request approval to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. **Section 5** also authorizes an electric utility that is required to make quarterly adjustments based on the fluctuating price of fuel or power to request approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. **Section 5** further requires a utility that receives approval to make any quarterly adjustments to provide its customers with written notice that includes information relating to when the adjustments will be reviewed by the Commission. **Section 5** also authorizes the Commission to approve, upon a showing of good cause, certain additional quarterly adjustments for a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and an electric utility which has received approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. **Sections 6 and 7** of this bill provide that a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility which has received approval

from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment is not eligible to apply for any additional adjustment to its deferred energy accounting adjustment in its annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 703.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:
703.320 Except as otherwise provided in subsections ~~[8 and]~~ 9 *and 11* of
NRS 704.110:

1. In any matter pending before the Commission, if a hearing is required by a specific statute or is otherwise required by the Commission, the Commission shall give notice of the pendency of the matter to all persons entitled to notice of the hearing. The Commission shall by regulation specify:

- (a) The manner of giving notice in each type of proceeding; and
- (b) The persons entitled to notice in each type of proceeding.

2. The Commission shall not dispense with a hearing:

(a) In any matter pending before the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.7561 to 704.7595, inclusive; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (f) of subsection 1 of NRS 704.100, in any matter pending before the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.061 to 704.110, inclusive, in which an electric utility has filed a general rate application or an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187.

3. In any other matter pending before the Commission, the Commission may dispense with a hearing and act upon the matter pending unless, within 10 days after the date of the notice of pendency, a person entitled to notice of the hearing files with the Commission a request that the hearing be held. If such a request for a hearing is filed, the Commission shall give at least 10 days' notice of the hearing.

4. As used in this section, "electric utility" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.187.

Sec. 2. NRS 704.062 is hereby amended to read as follows:
704.062 "Application to make changes in any schedule" and "application" include, without limitation:

- 1. A general rate application;
- 2. An application to recover the ~~[increased]~~ cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale; ~~[and]~~

3. An annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application ~~[]~~; *and*

4. An annual rate adjustment application.

Sec. 3. NRS 704.069 is hereby amended to read as follows:
704.069 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections ~~[8 and]~~ 9 *and 11* of NRS 704.110, the Commission shall conduct a consumer session to solicit comments from the public in any matter pending before the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.061 to 704.110, inclusive, in which:

(a) A public utility has filed a general rate application, an application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale, an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187 or an annual rate adjustment application; and

(b) The changes proposed in the application will result in an increase in annual gross operating revenue, as certified by the applicant, in an amount that will exceed

1 \$50,000 or 10 percent of the applicant's annual gross operating revenue, whichever
2 is less.

3 2. In addition to the case-specific consumer sessions required by subsection 1,
4 the Commission shall, during each calendar year, conduct at least one general
5 consumer session in the county with the largest population in this State and at least
6 one general consumer session in the county with the second largest population in
7 this State. At each general consumer session, the Commission shall solicit
8 comments from the public on issues concerning public utilities. Not later than 60
9 days after each general consumer session, the Commission shall submit the record
10 from the general consumer session to the Legislative Commission.

11 **Sec. 4.** NRS 704.100 is hereby amended to read as follows:

12 704.100 1. Except as otherwise provided in NRS 704.075 and 704.68861 to
13 704.68887, inclusive, or as may otherwise be provided by the Commission pursuant
14 to NRS 704.095 or 704.097:

15 (a) A public utility shall not make changes in any schedule, unless the public
16 utility:

17 (1) Files with the Commission an application to make the proposed
18 changes and the Commission approves the proposed changes pursuant to NRS
19 704.110; or

20 (2) Files the proposed changes with the Commission using a letter of
21 advice in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (f).

22 (b) A public utility shall adjust its rates on a quarterly basis between annual
23 rate adjustment applications pursuant to subsection 8 of NRS 704.110 based on
24 changes in the public utility's recorded costs of natural gas purchased for resale.

25 (c) An electric utility shall, between annual deferred energy accounting
26 adjustment applications filed pursuant to NRS 704.187, adjust its rates on a
27 quarterly basis pursuant to subsection ~~9~~ 10 of NRS 704.110.

28 (d) A public utility shall post copies of all proposed schedules and all new or
29 amended schedules in the same offices and in substantially the same form, manner
30 and places as required by NRS 704.070 for the posting of copies of schedules that
31 are currently in force.

32 (e) A public utility may not set forth as justification for a rate increase any
33 items of expense or rate base that previously have been considered and disallowed
34 by the Commission, unless those items are clearly identified in the application and
35 new facts or considerations of policy for each item are advanced in the application
36 to justify a reversal of the prior decision of the Commission.

37 (f) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (g), if the proposed change in
38 any schedule does not change any rate or will result in an increase in annual gross
39 operating revenue, as certified by the public utility, in an amount that does not
40 exceed \$2,500:

41 (1) The public utility may file the proposed change with the Commission
42 using a letter of advice in lieu of filing an application; and

43 (2) The Commission shall determine whether it should dispense with a
44 hearing regarding the proposed change.

45 (g) If the applicant is a small-scale provider of last resort and the proposed
46 change in any schedule will result in an increase in annual gross operating revenue,
47 as certified by the applicant, in an amount that does not exceed \$50,000 or 10
48 percent of the applicant's annual gross operating revenue, whichever is less, the
49 Commission shall determine whether it should dispense with a hearing regarding
50 the proposed change.

51 (h) In making the determination pursuant to paragraph (f) or (g), the
52 Commission shall first consider all timely written protests, any presentation that the
53 Regulatory Operations Staff of the Commission may desire to present, the

1 application of the public utility and any other matters deemed relevant by the
2 Commission.

3 2. As used in this section, "electric utility" has the meaning ascribed to it in
4 NRS 704.187.

5 **Sec. 5.** NRS 704.110 is hereby amended to read as follows:

6 704.110 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 704.075 and 704.68861 to
7 704.68887, inclusive, or as may otherwise be provided by the Commission pursuant
8 to NRS 704.095 or 704.097:

9 1. If a public utility files with the Commission an application to make changes
10 in any schedule, including, without limitation, changes that will result in a
11 discontinuance, modification or restriction of service, the Commission shall
12 investigate the propriety of the proposed changes to determine whether to approve
13 or disapprove the proposed changes. If an electric utility files such an application
14 and the application is a general rate application or an annual deferred energy
15 accounting adjustment application, the Consumer's Advocate shall be deemed a
16 party of record.

17 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, if a public utility files with
18 the Commission an application to make changes in any schedule, the Commission
19 shall, not later than 210 days after the date on which the application is filed, issue a
20 written order approving or disapproving, in whole or in part, the proposed changes.

21 3. If a public utility files with the Commission a general rate application, the
22 public utility shall submit with its application a statement showing the recorded
23 results of revenues, expenses, investments and costs of capital for its most recent 12
24 months for which data were available when the application was prepared. Except as
25 otherwise provided in subsection 4, in determining whether to approve or
26 disapprove any increased rates, the Commission shall consider evidence in support
27 of the increased rates based upon actual recorded results of operations for the same
28 12 months, adjusted for increased revenues, any increased investment in facilities,
29 increased expenses for depreciation, certain other operating expenses as approved
30 by the Commission and changes in the costs of securities which are known and are
31 measurable with reasonable accuracy at the time of filing and which will become
32 effective within 6 months after the last month of those 12 months, but the public
33 utility shall not place into effect any increased rates until the changes have been
34 experienced and certified by the public utility to the Commission and the
35 Commission has approved the increased rates. The Commission shall also consider
36 evidence supporting expenses for depreciation, calculated on an annual basis,
37 applicable to major components of the public utility's plant placed into service
38 during the recorded test period or the period for certification as set forth in the
39 application. Adjustments to revenues, operating expenses and costs of securities
40 must be calculated on an annual basis. Within 90 days after the date on which the
41 certification required by this subsection is filed with the Commission, or within the
42 period set forth in subsection 2, whichever time is longer, the Commission shall
43 make such order in reference to the increased rates as is required by this chapter.
44 The following public utilities shall each file a general rate application pursuant to
45 this subsection based on the following schedule:

46 (a) An electric utility that primarily serves less densely populated counties
47 shall file a general rate application not later than 5 p.m. on or before the first
48 Monday in June 2010, and at least once every 36 months thereafter.

49 (b) An electric utility that primarily serves densely populated counties shall file
50 a general rate application not later than 5 p.m. on or before the first Monday in June
51 2011, and at least once every 36 months thereafter.

52 (c) A public utility that furnishes water for municipal, industrial or domestic
53 purposes or services for the disposal of sewage, or both, which had an annual gross

operating revenue of \$2,000,000 or more for at least 1 year during the immediately preceding 3 years and which had not filed a general rate application with the Commission on or after July 1, 2005, shall file a general rate application on or before June 30, 2008, and at least once every 36 months thereafter unless waived by the Commission pursuant to standards adopted by regulation of the Commission. If a public utility furnishes both water and services for the disposal of sewage, its annual gross operating revenue for each service must be considered separately for determining whether the public utility meets the requirements of this paragraph for either service.

(d) A public utility that furnishes water for municipal, industrial or domestic purposes or services for the disposal of sewage, or both, which had an annual gross operating revenue of \$2,000,000 or more for at least 1 year during the immediately preceding 3 years and which had filed a general rate application with the Commission on or after July 1, 2005, shall file a general rate application on or before June 30, 2009, and at least once every 36 months thereafter unless waived by the Commission pursuant to standards adopted by regulation of the Commission. If a public utility furnishes both water and services for the disposal of sewage, its annual gross operating revenue for each service must be considered separately for determining whether the public utility meets the requirements of this paragraph for either service.

➤ The Commission shall adopt regulations setting forth standards for waivers pursuant to paragraphs (c) and (d) and for including the costs incurred by the public utility in preparing and presenting the general rate application before the effective date of any change in rates.

4. In addition to submitting the statement required pursuant to subsection 3, a public utility may submit with its general rate application a statement showing the effects, on an annualized basis, of all expected changes in circumstances. If such a statement is filed, it must include all increases and decreases in revenue and expenses which may occur within 210 days after the date on which its general rate application is filed with the Commission if such expected changes in circumstances are reasonably known and are measurable with reasonable accuracy. If a public utility submits such a statement, the public utility has the burden of proving that the expected changes in circumstances set forth in the statement are reasonably known and are measurable with reasonable accuracy. The Commission shall consider expected changes in circumstances to be reasonably known and measurable with reasonable accuracy if the expected changes in circumstances consist of specific and identifiable events or programs rather than general trends, patterns or developments, have an objectively high probability of occurring to the degree, in the amount and at the time expected, are primarily measurable by recorded or verifiable revenues and expenses and are easily and objectively calculated, with the calculation of the expected changes relying only secondarily on estimates, forecasts, projections or budgets. If the Commission determines that the public utility has met its burden of proof:

(a) The Commission shall consider the statement submitted pursuant to this subsection and evidence relevant to the statement, including all reasonable projected or forecasted offsets in revenue and expenses that are directly attributable to or associated with the expected changes in circumstances under consideration, in addition to the statement required pursuant to subsection 3 as evidence in establishing just and reasonable rates for the public utility; and

(b) The public utility is not required to file with the Commission the certification that would otherwise be required pursuant to subsection 3.

5. If a public utility files with the Commission an application to make changes in any schedule and the Commission does not issue a final written order regarding

the proposed changes within the time required by this section, the proposed changes shall be deemed to be approved by the Commission.

6. If a public utility files with the Commission a general rate application, the public utility shall not file with the Commission another general rate application until all pending general rate applications filed by that public utility have been decided by the Commission unless, after application and hearing, the Commission determines that a substantial financial emergency would exist if the public utility is not permitted to file another general rate application sooner. The provisions of this subsection do not prohibit the public utility from filing with the Commission, while a general rate application is pending, an application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale pursuant to subsection 7, a quarterly rate adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or ~~9~~ 10, any information relating to deferred accounting requirements pursuant to NRS 704.185 or an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187, if the public utility is otherwise authorized to so file by those provisions.

7. A public utility may file an application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale once every 30 days. The provisions of this subsection do not apply to:

(a) An electric utility which is required to adjust its rates on a quarterly basis pursuant to subsection ~~9~~ 10; or

(b) A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and which adjusts its rates on a quarterly basis ~~{between annual rate adjustment applications}~~ pursuant to subsection 8.

8. A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale must request approval from the Commission to adjust its rates on a quarterly basis between annual rate adjustment applications based on changes in the public utility's recorded costs of natural gas purchased for resale. *A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and which adjusts its rates on a quarterly basis may request approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The Commission shall approve or deny such a request not later than 120 days after the application is filed with the Commission. The Commission may approve the request if the Commission finds that ~~the quarterly adjustment~~ approval of the request is in the ~~{best interest of the}~~ public ~~{}~~ interest. If the Commission approves a request to make quarterly adjustments to the deferred energy accounting adjustment of a public utility pursuant to this subsection, any quarterly adjustment to the deferred energy accounting adjustment must not exceed 2.5 cents per therm of natural gas. ~~{The Commission shall not approve a deferred energy accounting adjustment if}~~ If the balance of the public utility's deferred account varies by less than 5 percent from the public utility's annual recorded costs of natural gas which are used to calculate quarterly rate adjustments {}, the Commission shall set the deferred energy accounting adjustment to zero cents per therm of natural gas.*

9. If the Commission approves ~~{such}~~ a request ~~{}~~ to make any rate adjustments on a quarterly basis pursuant to subsection 8:

(a) The public utility shall file written notice with the Commission before the public utility makes a quarterly rate adjustment. ~~{between annual rate adjustment applications.}~~ A quarterly rate adjustment is not subject to the requirements for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 or the requirements for a consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

(b) The public utility shall provide written notice of each quarterly rate adjustment to its customers by including the written notice with a customer's regular monthly bill. The public utility shall begin providing such written notice to its customers not later than 30 days after the date on which the public utility files its

1 written notice with the Commission pursuant to paragraph (a). The written notice
2 that is included with a customer's regular monthly bill:

3 (1) Must be printed separately on fluorescent-colored paper and must not
4 be attached to the pages of the bill; and

5 (2) Must include the following:

6 (I) The total amount of the increase or decrease in the public utility's
7 revenues from the rate adjustment, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

8 (II) The amount of the monthly increase or decrease in charges for
9 each class of customer or class of service, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

10 (III) A statement that customers may send written comments or
11 protests regarding the rate adjustment to the Commission; ~~and~~

12 (IV) *A statement that the transactions and recorded costs of natural
13 gas which are the basis for any quarterly rate adjustment will be reviewed for
14 reasonableness and prudence in the next proceeding held by the Commission to
15 review the annual rate adjustment pursuant to paragraph (d); and*

16 (V) Any other information required by the Commission.

17 (c) The public utility shall file an annual rate adjustment application with the
18 Commission. The annual rate adjustment application is subject to the requirements
19 for notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 and the requirements for a
20 consumer session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

21 (d) The proceeding regarding the annual rate adjustment application must
22 include a review of each quarterly rate adjustment ~~for each deferred energy~~
23 ~~accounting adjustment~~ and ~~a review of~~ the transactions and recorded costs of
24 natural gas included in each quarterly ~~rate adjustment~~ filing and the annual rate
25 adjustment application. There is no presumption of reasonableness or prudence for
26 any quarterly rate adjustment or for any transactions or recorded costs of natural
27 gas included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual rate adjustment
28 application, and the public utility has the burden of proving reasonableness and
29 prudence in the proceeding.

30 (e) The Commission shall not allow the public utility to recover any recorded
31 costs of natural gas which were the result of any practice or transaction that was
32 unreasonable or was undertaken, managed or performed imprudently by the public
33 utility, and the Commission shall order the public utility to adjust its rates if the
34 Commission determines that any recorded costs of natural gas included in any
35 quarterly rate adjustment or the annual rate adjustment application were not
36 reasonable or prudent.

37 ~~9-1~~ 10. An electric utility shall adjust its rates on a quarterly basis based on
38 changes in the ~~public~~ electric utility's recorded costs of purchased fuel or
39 purchased power. ~~In the following manner:~~ *In addition to adjusting its rates on a*
40 *quarterly basis, an electric utility may request approval from the Commission to*
41 *make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The*
42 *Commission shall approve or deny such a request not later than 120 days after*
43 *the application is filed with the Commission. The Commission may approve the*
44 *request if the Commission finds that ~~the quarterly adjustment~~ approval of the*
45 *request is in the ~~best interest of the~~ public ~~and~~ interest. If the Commission*
46 *approves a request to make quarterly adjustments to the deferred energy*
47 *accounting adjustment of an electric utility pursuant to this subsection, any*
48 *quarterly adjustment to the deferred energy accounting adjustment must not*
49 *exceed 0.25 cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity. ~~The Commission shall not~~*
50 *approve a deferred energy accounting adjustment if* *If the balance of the electric*
51 *utility's deferred account varies by less than 5 percent from the electric utility's*
52 *annual recorded costs for purchased fuel or purchased power which are used to*

1 *calculate quarterly rate adjustments ~~It~~, the Commission shall set the deferred*
2 *energy accounting adjustment to zero cents per kilowatt-hour of electricity.*

3 *II. A quarterly rate adjustment ~~to a deferred energy accounting~~*
4 *~~adjustment~~ filed pursuant to subsection 10 is subject to the following*
5 *requirements:*

6 (a) ~~Each~~ *The* electric utility shall file written notice with the Commission on or
7 before August 15, 2007, and every quarter thereafter of the quarterly rate
8 adjustment to be made by the electric utility for the following quarter. The first
9 quarterly rate adjustment by the electric utility will take effect on October 1, 2007,
10 and each subsequent quarterly rate adjustment will take effect every quarter
11 thereafter. *The first quarterly adjustment to a deferred energy accounting*
12 *adjustment must be made pursuant to an order issued by the Commission*
13 *approving the application of an electric utility to make quarterly adjustments to*
14 *its deferred energy accounting adjustment.* A quarterly *rate* adjustment ~~to a~~
15 ~~deferred energy accounting adjustment~~ is not subject to the requirements for
16 notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 or the requirements for a consumer
17 session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

18 (b) ~~Each~~ *The* electric utility shall provide written notice of each quarterly rate
19 adjustment to its customers by including the written notice with a customer's
20 regular monthly bill. The electric utility shall begin providing such written notice to
21 its customers not later than 30 days after the date on which the electric utility files a
22 written notice with the Commission pursuant to paragraph (a). The written notice
23 that is included with a customer's regular monthly bill:

24 (1) Must be printed separately on fluorescent-colored paper and must not
25 be attached to the pages of the bill; and

26 (2) Must include the following:

27 (I) The total amount of the increase or decrease in the electric utility's
28 revenues from the rate adjustment, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

29 (II) The amount of the monthly increase or decrease in charges for
30 each class of customer or class of service, stated in dollars and as a percentage;

31 (III) A statement that customers may send written comments or
32 protests regarding the rate adjustment to the Commission; ~~and~~

33 (IV) *A statement that the transactions and recorded costs of*
34 *purchased fuel or purchased power which are the basis for any quarterly rate*
35 *adjustment will be reviewed for reasonableness and prudence in the next*
36 *proceeding held by the Commission to review the annual deferred energy*
37 *accounting adjustment application pursuant to paragraph (d); and*

38 (V) Any other information required by the Commission.

39 (c) ~~Each~~ *The* electric utility shall file an annual deferred energy accounting
40 adjustment application pursuant to NRS 704.187 with the Commission. The annual
41 deferred energy accounting adjustment application is subject to the requirements for
42 notice and a hearing pursuant to NRS 703.320 and the requirements for a consumer
43 session pursuant to subsection 1 of NRS 704.069.

44 (d) The proceeding regarding the annual deferred energy accounting
45 adjustment application must include a review of each quarterly rate adjustment ~~to~~
46 ~~each deferred energy accounting adjustment~~ and ~~to review of~~ the transactions
47 and recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power included in each
48 quarterly ~~rate adjustment~~ *filing* and the annual deferred energy accounting
49 adjustment application. There is no presumption of reasonableness or prudence for
50 any quarterly rate adjustment or for any transactions or recorded costs of purchased
51 fuel and purchased power included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual
52 deferred energy accounting adjustment application, and the electric utility has the
53 burden of proving reasonableness and prudence in the proceeding.

(e) The Commission shall not allow the electric utility to recover any recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power which were the result of any practice or transaction that was unreasonable or was undertaken, managed or performed imprudently by the electric utility, and the Commission shall order the electric utility to adjust its rates if the Commission determines that any recorded costs of purchased fuel and purchased power included in any quarterly rate adjustment or the annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application were not reasonable or prudent.

~~H01~~ 12. If an electric utility files an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application pursuant to subsection ~~H9~~ 11 and NRS 704.187 while a general rate application is pending, the electric utility shall:

(a) Submit with its annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application information relating to the cost of service and rate design; and

(b) Supplement its general rate application with the same information, if such information was not submitted with the general rate application.

~~H11~~ 13. A utility facility identified in a 3-year plan submitted pursuant to NRS 704.741 and accepted by the Commission for acquisition or construction pursuant to NRS 704.751 and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto shall be deemed to be a prudent investment. The utility may recover all just and reasonable costs of planning and constructing such a facility.

~~H2~~ 14. In regard to any rate or schedule approved or disapproved pursuant to this section, the Commission may, after a hearing:

(a) Upon the request of the utility, approve a new rate but delay the implementation of that new rate:

(1) Until a date determined by the Commission; and

(2) Under conditions as determined by the Commission, including, without limitation, a requirement that interest charges be included in the collection of the new rate; and

(b) Authorize a utility to implement a reduced rate for low-income residential customers.

~~H3~~ 15. *The Commission may, upon request and for good cause shown, permit a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility to make a quarterly adjustment to its deferred energy accounting adjustment in excess of the maximum allowable adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or 10.*

16. *A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility that makes quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 or 10 may submit to the Commission for approval an application to discontinue making quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment and to subsequently make annual adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment. The Commission may approve an application submitted pursuant to this subsection if the Commission finds that approval of the application is in the ~~best interest of the~~ public ~~in~~ interest.*

17. As used in this section:

(a) *“Deferred energy accounting adjustment” means the rate of a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale or an electric utility that is calculated by dividing the balance of a deferred account during a specified period by the total therms or kilowatt-hours which have been sold in the geographical area to which the rate applies during the specified period.*

(b) “Electric utility” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.187.

~~H6~~ (c) “Electric utility that primarily serves densely populated counties” means an electric utility that, with regard to the provision of electric service, derives more of its annual gross operating revenue in this State from customers

located in counties whose population is 400,000 or more than it does from customers located in counties whose population is less than 400,000.

~~(e)-(d)~~ “Electric utility that primarily serves less densely populated counties” means an electric utility that, with regard to the provision of electric service, derives more of its annual gross operating revenue in this State from customers located in counties whose population is less than 400,000 than it does from customers located in counties whose population is 400,000 or more.

Sec. 6. NRS 704.185 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.185 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8 of NRS 704.110, a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale may record upon its books and records in deferred accounts all cost increases or decreases in the natural gas purchased for resale. Any public utility which uses deferred accounting to reflect changes in costs of natural gas purchased for resale shall include in its annual report to the Commission a statement showing the allocated rate of return for each of its operating departments in Nevada which uses deferred accounting.

2. ~~If the rate of return for any department using deferred accounting pursuant to subsection 1 is greater than the rate of return allowed by the Commission in the last rate proceeding, the Commission shall order the utility which recovered any costs of natural gas purchased for resale through rates during the reported period to transfer to the next energy adjustment period that portion of such recovered amounts which exceeds the authorized rate of return.~~

~~3.~~ A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale may request approval from the Commission to record upon its books and records in deferred accounts any other cost or revenue which the Commission deems appropriate for deferred accounting and which is not otherwise subject to the provisions of ~~subsections~~ *subsection 1.* ~~and 2.~~ If the Commission approves such a request, the Commission shall determine the appropriate requirements for reporting and recovery that the public utility must follow with regard to each such deferred account.

~~4.~~ 3. When a public utility which purchases natural gas for resale files an *annual rate adjustment application or an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment* application, ~~to clear its deferred accounts,~~ the proceeding regarding the application must include a review of the transactions and recorded costs of natural gas included in the application. There is no presumption of reasonableness or prudence for any transactions or recorded costs of natural gas included in the application, and the public utility has the burden of proving reasonableness and prudence in the proceeding.

4. *A public utility which purchases natural gas for resale and which has received approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to a deferred energy accounting adjustment pursuant to subsection 8 of NRS 704.110 is not eligible to request an adjustment to its deferred energy accounting adjustment in its annual rate adjustment application.*

Sec. 7. NRS 704.187 is hereby amended to read as follows:

704.187 1. An electric utility that purchases fuel or power shall use deferred accounting by recording upon its books and records in deferred accounts all increases and decreases in costs for purchased fuel and purchased power that are prudently incurred by the electric utility.

2. An electric utility using deferred accounting shall include in its annual report to the Commission a statement showing, for the period of recovery, the allocated rate of return for each of its operating departments in this State using deferred accounting. ~~If, during the period of recovery, the rate of return for any operating department using deferred accounting is greater than the rate of return authorized by the Commission in the most recently completed rate proceeding for~~

~~the electric utility, the Commission shall order the electric utility that recovered costs for purchased fuel or purchased power through its rates during the reported period to transfer to the next energy adjustment period that portion of the amount recovered by the electric utility that exceeds the authorized rate of return.]~~

3. Except as otherwise provided in this section, an electric utility using deferred accounting shall file an annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application on or before March 1, 2008, and on or before March 1 of each year thereafter.

4. *An electric utility that purchases fuel or power and has received approval from the Commission to make quarterly adjustments to its deferred energy accounting adjustment pursuant to subsection 10 of NRS 704.110 is not eligible to request an adjustment to its deferred energy accounting adjustment in its annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application.*

5. As used in this section:

(a) "Annual deferred energy accounting adjustment application" means an application filed by an electric utility pursuant to this section and subsection ~~10~~ **11** of NRS 704.110.

(b) "Costs for purchased fuel and purchased power" means all costs which are prudently incurred by an electric utility and which are required to purchase fuel, to purchase capacity and to purchase energy. The term does not include any costs that the Commission determines are not recoverable pursuant to subsection ~~10~~ **11** of NRS 704.110.

(c) "Electric utility" means any public utility or successor in interest that:

(1) Is in the business of providing electric service to customers;

(2) Holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued or transferred pursuant to this chapter; and

(3) In the most recently completed calendar year or in any other calendar year within the 7 calendar years immediately preceding the most recently completed calendar year, had a gross operating revenue of \$250,000,000 or more in this State.

☞ The term does not include a cooperative association, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit association or provider of electric service which is declared to be a public utility pursuant to NRS 704.673 and which provides service only to its members.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.