

DATE: December 10, 2018

TO: Subscribers

SUGGESTED DISTRIBUTION: Commissioners, TA Directors, SNAP Directors, HEAP Coordinators

FROM: Jeffrey Gaskell, Assistant Deputy Commissioner
Employment and Income Support Programs

SUBJECT: 2018-2019 Holiday Moratorium Schedule for New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) Regulated and Municipal Utility Companies

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 14, 2018

CONTACT PERSON: HEAP Questions - HEAP Bureau, (518) 473-0332
TA Questions - Temporary Assistance Bureau, (518) 474-9344

The purpose of this GIS message is to inform social services districts (districts) of the 2018-2019 moratorium schedule for utility terminations during the holiday season. Each year, all PSC regulated utility companies are required to suspend service terminations for residential natural gas and electricity for the two-week period encompassing the Christmas and New Year holidays. Each utility company establishes its own schedule.

2018-2019 New York State Service Termination Moratorium Schedule

Central Hudson Gas & Electric	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019
Con Edison	December 19, 2018 through January 1, 2019
Enbridge St. Lawrence Gas	December 19, 2018 through January 1, 2019
National Fuel Gas (NFG)	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019
National Grid Long Island	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019
National Grid Metro	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019
National Grid Upstate	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019

NYS Electric & Gas (NYSEG)	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019
Orange & Rockland Utility (O&R)	December 14, 2018 through January 1, 2019
PSEG Long Island	December 19, 2018 through January 1, 2019
Rochester Gas & Electric (RG&E)	December 17, 2018 through January 1, 2019

Municipal electric companies, which are not regulated by the PSC, will have a moratorium period in effect from **December 17, 2018** through **January 2, 2019**.

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Implications

HEAP certifiers must not issue Regular benefit guarantees or “ten-day service holds” to any utility company from the start of their specific moratorium period through January 1, 2019. This will ensure that HEAP benefits are used to prevent terminations and obtain prospective service during the period of time when actual service terminations can occur.

HEAP certifiers must continue to accept Regular benefit applications and process eligibility determinations during the moratorium period. Certifiers should remember to use this moratorium period when authorizing Regular HEAP benefits to maximize the 30 days of prospective service provided by the HEAP payment.

Applicants whose utility service was terminated prior to the moratorium period, but applied for a Regular benefit during that period must still have their eligibility determined. If they are eligible, a guarantee of payment must be made to the utility company to restore service.

Temporary Assistance (TA) Implications

TA applicants or recipients who are scheduled for termination or terminated prior to the moratorium period must be referred to HEAP. If HEAP cannot resolve the emergency, the district must contact the utility provider to reschedule termination in accordance with the PSC’s moratorium policy (16 NYCRR § 11.4(a)(4)(ii)), or must determine eligibility through TA, issue appropriate notice, and contact the utility provider to restore service if the TA applicant or recipient is eligible.

For TA applicants or recipients who are not scheduled for termination or terminated prior to the moratorium period, districts must follow routine emergency assistance procedures, including referral to HEAP.