

Chapter PSC 136

GAS CONSERVATION

PSC 136.01	General	PSC 136.05	Nonessential uses of natural gas
PSC 136.04	Conservation standards for converting existing structures to natural gas spaceheating service	PSC 136.10	Disconnection or refusal of service

PSC 136.01 General. (1) Chapter PSC 136, constitutes a general order of the public service commission, authorized by ss. 227.014 and 196.97, Stats.

(2) The requirements of ch. PSC 136 shall be observed by all public utilities, both privately and publicly owned, engaged in the manufacture, mixing, purchasing, storage, transmission and/or distribution of gaseous fuel.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 11-1-79; cr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80.

PSC 136.02 Adoption of federal rules prohibiting the sale and direct industrial use of natural gas for outdoor lighting. History: Emerg. cr. eff. 11-1-79; cr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80; r. Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83.

PSC 136.03 Exemptions. History: Emerg. cr. eff. 11-1-79; cr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80; r. Register, June, 1983, No. 330, eff. 7-1-83.

PSC 136.04 Conservation standards for converting existing structures to natural gas spaceheating service. (1) The provisions of this section shall apply only to those investor-owned utilities set forth below:

- (a) Lake Superior District Power Company
- (b) Madison Gas and Electric Company
- (c) Northern States Power Company
- (d) Superior Water, Light and Power Company
- (e) Wisconsin Fuel and Light Company
- (f) Wisconsin Gas Company
- (g) Wisconsin Natural Gas Company
- (h) Wisconsin Power and Light Company
- (i) Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
- (j) Wisconsin Southern Gas Company

(2) Nothing in s. PSC 136.04 shall preclude special and individual consideration being given to exceptional or unusual situations. The rule may be modified or waived by the public service commission in particular cases whenever said rules are shown to be impracticable for special reasons. Upon due investigation of the facts and circumstances involved and after hearing if required, the commission may order requirements as to individual utilities or service which shall be lesser, greater, other or different from those provided in the rules of this section.

(3) Before natural gas service can be rendered to existing residential structures converting to gas spaceheating service, each utility listed in sub. (1) shall require that the following conservation standards be met:

(a) Ceiling or attic insulation: If a structure has insulating material with insulation value less than R-19, the customer shall install insulation to a level of R-38. If insulation materials equal to a level of R-38 cannot

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be installed because of inadequate space between the ceiling and the roof, then as much insulation as space permits shall be installed. **Exception:** If the structure has existing insulation material with a value of R-11 or more and the customer is installing batt insulation, the customer need only install additional insulation material with a value of R-19.

(b) Sill box area insulation shall be installed to a level of R-19, unless physically impractical.

(c) Floor insulation over vented crawl spaces or unheated basements shall reach a level of R-19. In a heated crawl space, insulation materials with an R factor of at least 5 shall be installed on the walls.

(d) In unheated areas, insulation shall be installed on all heating ducts, cold air returns, and hot water pipes.

(e) Windows shall be double-glazed or have storms.

(f) All doors exposed to the outside atmosphere shall have a storm door or equivalent insulated door.

(g) Weatherstripping shall be installed on all movable doors and windows exposed to an unheated space. Caulking shall be installed whenever 2 different materials or parts of a structure meet, such as chimney openings, around windows and doors, etc.

(h) If a new central heating unit is to be installed, the equipment shall meet the energy efficiency requirements of s. Ind 22.13, Wis. Adm. Code, which are as follows:

Combustion spaceheating equipment shall be provided with electronic ignition and automatic flue dampering, except sealed combustion equipment or equipment located in enclosures and provided with combustion air need not be provided with flue dampering.

(i) Ventilation above the ceiling/attic insulation shall be installed. The free ventilating area shall be at least 1/300 of the horizontal area. One half of the venting should be near the eaves and the other half near the top of the roof.

(j) If a structure is unable to meet all required standards, other methods of energy conservation may be substituted such that the energy savings will be the same or greater. This substitution shall be based on heat loss calculations performed in a normally accepted manner. Such substitutions may include but are not limited to the following:

1. Furnace modifications as suggested by the utility; or
2. Insulation materials equal to R-5 on the inside walls of a heated basement.

(4) Before natural gas service can be rendered for commercial or industrial spaceheating use in buildings constructed before July 1, 1978, each utility listed in sub. (1) shall require that the following conservation standards be met:

(a) Design heat loss, excluding infiltration and ventilation, through above-grade gross walls and roofs facing heated interiors shall not exceed 13 BTU per hour per square foot for the total building envelope;

(b) If a building exceeds the heat loss of (a) above, the building may receive gas service provided that it demonstrates additional innovative building or system designs that will reduce fuel consumption to a level equal to or less than fuel consumption which results from complying with (a) above;

(c) All exterior windows and doors shall be designed to limit leakage into or from the building and shall be weatherstripped; and

(d) Special use buildings such as greenhouse, inflatable structures, and the like, or any building exempt from the heating and ventilating requirements of ch. Ind 63, Wis. Adm. Code, are exempt from these requirements.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 5-2-80; cr. Register, January, 1981, No. 301, eff. 2-1-81.

PSC 136.05 Nonessential uses of natural gas. (1) A utility or other person shall not install, connect, or cause to be installed or connected to the distribution system any device which constitutes a nonessential use of natural gas, in accordance with sub. (3), unless such device has been received by any person prior to the effective date of this rule, including item inventories held by retailers and wholesalers.

(2) For purposes of determining a nonessential use of natural gas, the public service commission shall consider the following criteria:

(a) Necessity of use;

(b) Availability and reasonableness of alternative fuel to provide a substitute service;

(c) Public health, safety and unusual hardship factors; and

(d) Compatibility of natural gas use with energy policy.

(3) In accordance with the preceding criteria, the use of natural gas in the following devices or for the following purposes is considered to be nonessential:

(a) Gas lights;

(b) Snowmelting equipment;

(c) Residential swimming pool heaters, unless provided with a passive solar blanket which covers the entire surface of the pool or an active solar system which uses a solar collector with a surface area of at least 50% of the pool's surface area; and

(d) Heating areas containing swimming pools, porches, workshops, garages or other areas of marginal or seasonal use unless insulated to energy conservation standards as specified in chs. Ind 22 and 63, Wis. Adm. Code.

(4) The rule designating a nonessential use of natural gas may be modified or waived by the commission for reasons of health, safety or unusual hardship.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80; am. (3) (c), Register, January, 1982, No. 313, eff. 2-1-82; am. (3) (c), r. (3) (d), renum. (3) (e) to be (3) (d), Register, March, 1982, No. 315, eff. 4-1-82.

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PSC 136.10 Disconnection or refusal of service. Gas service may be disconnected or refused for failure to comply with the regulations contained in this chapter as specified in PSC 134.062.

History: Emerg. cr. eff. 11-1-79; cr. Register, February, 1980, No. 290, eff. 3-1-80.

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