

October 1, 2021



Cold Weather Rule Effective October 1 Through April 30

Why are you getting this notice?

This is an annual notice of your rights under Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule. Please retain it for reference if you encounter problems paying your utility bills.

What is the Cold Weather Rule?

The Cold Weather Rule regulates the disconnection of residential electric service between October 1 and April 30 if disconnection would affect the primary heat source.

What consumers must know:

It is important to understand that to be protected by the Cold Weather Rule, your account must be current as of October 1st or you must have signed an inability to pay/payment arrangement form. In addition, you must keep the terms of the payment plan. These forms are available in our office. In cases of inability to pay, you must provide verification that your household income is less than 60 percent of the state median income. Blooming Prairie Public Utilities has a copy of the Cold Weather Rule income guidelines for your review.

If you do not meet the above conditions, you do not qualify for winter disconnection protection. If you do not respond to a disconnect notice, your service may be disconnected, even in mid-winter.

You may request that Blooming Prairie Public Utilities notify a third party if your electric service becomes subject to disconnection. A Third-Party Notification Form is available at our office.

Energy assistance is available to qualified applicants. A list of agencies appears at the bottom of this notice. We encourage you to contact these agencies for additional information if you need help with your bill. **When filling out applications for energy assistance, remember that you must indicate that you want some of your grant money to go to your electric company or none of your grant will be applied to your utility bill.**

If you have any questions about the Cold Weather Rule, please contact us at 583-6683 or the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147.

Energy Assistance and Weatherization Programs

Minnesota Energy Assistance Program
The Energy Information Center
(800) 657-3710
www.commerce.state.mn.us

SEMCAC
Owatonna (507) 451-7134
Rushford (800) 944-3281

MN Prairie County Alliance **Steele County**
(507) 431-5600

Salvation Army Heat Share
(800) 842- 7279

Salvation Army
(507) 455-1444