

LCB File No. R210-03

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

Docket No. 03-8010

November 5, 2003

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

AUTHORITY:       §§1-9, NRS 703.025 and 704.210

**Section 1. Chapter 702 of the NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provision set forth as sections 2 to 5 of this regulation.**

**Sec. 2. *“Alternate seller” defined. “Alternate seller” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.994.***

**Sec. 3. *“Provider of discretionary natural gas service” defined. “Provider of discretionary natural gas service” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704.997.***

**Sec. 4. *“Provider of new electric resources” defined. “Provider of new electric resources” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 704B.130.***

**Sec. 5. *“UEC Collector” defined. “UEC Collector” means a public utility, municipal utility, alternate seller, provider of discretionary natural gas service, or provider of new electric resources that is required by statute to collect a universal service energy charge (“UEC”) from its customers.***

**Sec. 6. NAC 702.320 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.320 Universal energy charge based on metered quantity; bill is primary evidence of metered quantity and date on which meter was read. (NRS 702.170)**

1. The amount of universal energy charge due from a retail customer must be based on the quantity of natural gas and the quantity of electricity as measured by a meter read on a date within the calendar quarter.

2. The bill from an *UEC collector* ~~[public utility, municipal utility or other provider or transporter of natural gas or electricity]~~ is the primary evidence of the metered quantity of natural gas, the metered quantity of electricity and the date on which the meter was read.

**Sec. 7. NAC 702.330 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.330 *UEC collector* [Utility] required to use phrase “Universal Energy Charge” on bill; exceptions. (NRS 702.170)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, an *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ shall use the phrase “Universal Energy Charge” to set forth the universal energy charge as a separate item or entry on the bill of each retail customer as required by NRS 702.160.

2. If it is not reasonably possible for an *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ to use the phrase “Universal Energy Charge” to set forth the universal energy charge as a separate item or entry on the bill of each retail customer, the *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ may apply to the commission for approval to use as alternative phrase.

**Sec. 8. NAC 702.340 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.340 *UEC collector* [Utility] required to submit utility collection report and remit money to commission. (NRS 702.170)** Not later than 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, each *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ shall:

1. Complete a utility collection report on the appropriate form obtained from the commission;
2. Submit the completed utility collection report to the commission; and

3. Remit with the completed utility collection report the amount due from retail customers for the universal energy charge for that calendar quarter.

**Sec. 9. NAC 702.350 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.350 *UEC collector* ~~{PublicUtility}~~ required to pay universal energy charge on certain consumption; exceptions; *UEC collector* ~~{PublicUtility}~~ required to submit retail customer report and remit money to commission. (NRS 702.170)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ is required to pay the universal energy charge on any therm of natural gas or any kilowatt-hour of electricity that the *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ consumes in conducting its utility business.

2. An *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ is not required to pay the universal energy charge on:

(a) Any kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed by the *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ at an electric generating plant or unit.

(b) Any therm of natural gas consumed by the *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ at an electric generating plant or unit.

(c) Any therm of natural gas consumed by the *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ to directly support the delivery of natural gas to retail customers, including, without limitation, any therm of natural gas consumed by the *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ for pressure regulation.

3. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 702.370, not later than 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, an *UEC collector* ~~{public-utility}~~ that is required to pay the universal energy charge pursuant to this section shall:

(a) Complete a retail customer report on the appropriate form obtained from the commission;

(b) Submit the completed retail customer report to the commission; and

(c) Remit with the completed retail customer report the amount due from the public utility for the universal energy charge for that calendar quarter.

**Sec. 10. NAC 702.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.360 Certain retail customers required to submit retail customer report and remit money to commission. (NRS 702.170)** Except as otherwise provided in NAC 702.370, not later than 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter, each retail customer which does not use the distribution services of an *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ to acquire natural gas or electricity that is subject to the universal energy charge shall:

1. Complete a retail customer report on the appropriate form obtained from the commission;
2. Submit the completed retail customer report to the commission; and
3. Remit with the completed retail customer report the amount due from the retail customer for the universal energy charge for that calendar quarter.

**Sec. 11. NAC 702.370 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.370 Prepayment of maximum universal energy charge for calendar quarter. (NRS 702.170)**

1. A single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control may prepay in the amount of \$25,000 the maximum universal energy charge for any calendar quarter. To prepay the maximum universal energy charge for any calendar quarter, not later than 15 calendar days before the first day of the calendar quarter, the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control must:

- (a) Complete a prepayment report on the appropriate form obtained from the commission;
- (b) Submit the completed prepayment report to the commission; and

(c) Remit with the completed prepayment report the maximum universal energy charge in the amount of \$25,000.

2. If the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control prepay the maximum universal energy charge for the calendar quarter in accordance with this section:

(a) The commission will provide notice to each affected *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ and direct that each such *UEC collector* ~~[utility]~~ not collect the universal energy charge from each such retail customer for that calendar quarter; and

(b) Each such retail customer:

(1) Is excused from further liability for the universal energy charge for that calendar quarter; and

(2) Is not entitled to a refund of any portion of the prepaid \$25,000 on the basis that the actual consumption of natural gas and electricity by the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control did not result in liability for the maximum universal energy charge for that calendar quarter.

3. If a single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control have prepaid the maximum universal energy charge for the current calendar quarter but do not timely prepay the maximum universal energy charge for the next calendar quarter, the commission will provide notice to each affected *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ and direct that each such *UEC collector* ~~[utility]~~ collect the universal energy charge from each such retail customer beginning with the calendar quarter for which the maximum universal energy charge was not timely prepaid.

**Sec. 12. NAC 702.380 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.380 Request for refund. (NRS 702.170)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in NAC 702.370, a single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control that have paid the universal energy charge may:

(a) Request a refund of any amount paid for the universal energy charge which exceeds \$25,000 for a calendar quarter;

(b) Request a refund of any amount paid for the universal energy charge on:

(1) Any therm of natural gas used as a source of energy to generate electricity; or

(2) Any kilowatt-hour of electricity used in industries utilizing electrolytic-manufacturing processes; or

(c) Request a refund of the universal energy charge for any other lawful reason.

2. To request a refund pursuant to this section, not later than 90 calendar days after the end of the calendar quarter for which the refund is requested, the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control must:

(a) Complete a request for refund on the appropriate form obtained from the commission; and

(b) Submit the completed request for refund to the commission and include with the completed request for refund all the following:

(1) A statement setting forth the amount of the refund requested based upon quantities of natural gas and electricity billed during the calendar quarter.

(2) A statement setting forth all grounds upon which the request for refund is based.

(3) All evidence relied upon to support the request for refund, including copies of bills, documents and affidavits, evidence of full payment of bills and any other information or documentation requested by the commission.

(4) A signed release authorizing the commission or its regulatory operations staff to request and receive a payment history for the affected accounts for the relevant calendar quarter or calendar quarters from any *UEC collector* ~~[public utility, municipal utility or other provider or transporter of natural gas or electricity]~~.

(5) A statement, signed under penalty of perjury, that:

(I) The request for refund is made in good faith;

(II) The person submitting the request for refund is authorized to make the request for refund on behalf of the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control; and

(III) The request for refund does not duplicate or seek a refund on the same ground as or of the same payment as any previously submitted request for refund, unless the request for refund is expressly identified as an amendment of or otherwise relates directly to a previously submitted request for refund.

3. If a request for refund is submitted properly, the commission will:

(a) Review and make a determination on the request for refund;

(b) Certify the amount of the refund, if any; and

(c) Provide a written copy of its determination and any certification to:

(1) The person submitting the request for refund on behalf of the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control; and

(2) The welfare division to process payment of the refund, if any.

4. All refunds certified by the commission must be paid from the fund without interest.

**Sec. 13. NAC 702.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**NAC 702.390 Request for exemption. (NRS 702.170)**

1. A single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control which claim that they are exempted from paying the universal energy charge may make a request for exemption.

2. To make a request for exemption, the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control must:

(a) Complete a request for exemption on the appropriate form obtained from the commission; and

(b) Submit the completed request for exemption to the commission and include with the completed request for exemption sufficient evidence, legal support and information to support the request for exemption.

3. The single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control have the burden of proving that they are entitled to the exemption under Nevada law.

4. If a request for exemption is submitted properly, the commission will:

(a) Review and make a determination on the request for exemption as soon as practicable;

(b) Certify the exemption, if any; and

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, at least 7 calendar days before the first day of the next calendar quarter, provide a written copy of its determination and any certification to:

(1) The person submitting the request for exemption on behalf of the single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control; and

(2) Any *UEC collector* ~~[public utility or municipal utility]~~ affected by the exemption, if certified. If the commission is unable to make a determination on the request for exemption or provide a written copy of its determination and any certification on the request for exemption at least 7 calendar days before the first day of the next calendar quarter, the commission will take



those actions at least 7 calendar days before the first day of the calendar quarter immediately following the next calendar quarter.

5. If the commission certifies an exemption pursuant to this section, each affected *UEC collector* ~~{public utility or municipal utility }~~ shall apply the exemption only to billings issued during calendar quarters following the calendar quarter in which the exemption is certified. The single retail customer or multiple retail customers under common ownership and control may request a refund pursuant to NAC 702.380 of any amounts billed by *an UEC collector* ~~{public utility or municipal utility }~~ during the calendar quarter in which the exemption is certified.

6. If the commission certifies an exemption, in whole or in part, for any therms of natural gas used as a source of energy to generate electricity or any kilowatt-hours of electricity used in industries utilizing electrolytic-manufacturing processes, each retail customer receiving the certified exemption is required to pay the universal energy charge on any therms of natural gas or kilowatt-hours of electricity consumed by the retail customer which are not subject to the certified exemption and which are not otherwise exempt from the universal energy charge for any other lawful reason.

7. If the nature or scope of the operation or business of any retail customer receiving a certified exemption changes in any material manner which may affect the nature or scope of the certified exemption, not later than 15 calendar days after the changes occur, the retail customer shall submit to the commission a written report identifying the nature and scope of the changes. After receiving the written report, the commission will determine whether to reconsider the nature and scope of the certified exemption.

**Sec. 14. Chapter 704 of the NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provision set forth as section 15 of this regulation.**

**Sec. 15.** *“Reverse polymerization process” defined. “Reverse polymerization process” has the meaning ascribed to it in section 3 of Assembly Bill 296 passed during the 72nd session of the Nevada Legislature.*

**Sec. 16.** NAC 704.8861 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**NAC 704.8861 “Solar renewable energy system defined. (NRS 703.025, 704.210, 704.7828)**

1. “Solar renewable energy system” means a renewable energy system that uses solar radiation as its direct source of energy.

2. The term, includes, without limitation:

(a) A photovoltaic system.

(b) A solar thermal ~~[electric]~~ system.

~~[(c) A solar thermal system.]~~

**Sec. 17.** NAC 704.8863 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**NAC 704.8863 “solar thermal system “ defined. (NRS 703.025, 704.210, 704.7828)**

1. “Solar thermal system” means an energy system that:

(a) Displaces the use of electricity, *natural gas, or propane* generated from nonrenewable energy by using solar radiation to heat water or provide space heating or cooling and meets the requirements of NAC 704.8893; or

(b) Uses solar radiation in a combined-cycle operation to increase the electric output of an electric generating plant or unit.

~~[2. The term includes, without limitation:~~

~~—(a) A solar thermal electric system.~~

~~—(b) A solar energy system that reduces the consumption of electricity.]~~

**Sec. 18.** NAC 704.8893 is hereby amended as follows:

**NAC 704.8893 Renewable energy systems: Use of solar thermal systems. (NRS 703.025, 704.210, 704.7821, 704.7828)**

1. A solar thermal system which displaces the use of electricity, *natural gas, or propane* generated from nonrenewable energy and which is used as a solar water heating system qualifies as a renewable energy system only if the solar water heating system is certified by the SRCC ~~{ and is installed in conjunction with an electric, natural gas, or propane water heater in a location where natural gas is unavailable}~~. To calculate the number of equivalent kilowatt-hours attributable to the solar water heating system, the provider must use:

(a) A thermal energy meter; or

(b) If the solar water heating system is not metered with a thermal energy meter, the annual performance estimates of the SRCC for the solar water heating system.

2. A solar thermal system which displaces the use of electricity, *natural gas, or propane* generated from nonrenewable energy and which is used for a purpose other than as a solar water heating system qualifies as a renewable energy system only if the commission determines that the provider can adequately measure or estimate the number of equivalent kilowatt-hours attributable to the solar thermal system.

**Sec. 19. Chapter 704 of the NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto the provision set forth as sections 20 and 21 of this regulation.**

**Sec. 20. 1. *As an alternative to transferring renewable energy credits directly to providers of electric service, renewable energy credits generated by residential renewable energy systems may be transferred to an aggregator of renewable energy credits.***

*2. As used in this section, an aggregator of renewable energy credits is a person or business who obtains renewable energy credits, then transfers them in aggregate to providers of electric service.*

**Sec. 21.** *The utility providers may establish a rebate program to assist and incent residential customers in the construction of renewable energy systems.*

**Sec. 22.** Chapter 704 of NAC is hereby amended by revising Section 8 of the regulation in PUCN Docket No. 02-5029, LCB File No. R 115-03, adopted by the Commission on October 29, 2003, as follows:

“Renewable energy credit” means a unit of credit which:

1. Equals 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity generated by a renewable energy system.
2. For a solar facility that reduces the consumption of electricity by the generation of solar energy, equals the amount of electric~~ity~~al, natural gas, or propane consumption that is reduced at the facility by the operation of the solar facility.
3. For a net metering system, equals the amount of metered electricity generated by the system or, if the system does not use a meter to measure the kilowatt-hours of electricity generated by the system, equals the estimate of the electricity generated by the system in the manner prescribed in subsection 4 of section 15 of this regulation.

**Sec. 23.** Chapter 704 of NAC is hereby amended by revising Section 15 of the regulation in PUCN Docket No. 02-5029, LCB File No. R 115-03, adopted by the Commission on October 29, 2003, as follows:

1. Electricity generated by a renewable energy system which is authorized to participate in the system of renewable energy credits must be metered and the renewable energy system shall submit meter readings quarterly to the Commission.

2. Except as provided in subsections 3~~[, 4 and 5,]~~ *through 10, inclusive*, the Administrator shall certify renewable energy credits to a renewable energy system for:

(a) The net metered output of electricity in kilowatt-hours delivered to the transmission system or the distribution system and sold to a provider of electric service. The net metered output must be provided to the Administrator by the entity that owns, operates or controls the meters used to monitor the net metered output of electricity of the renewable energy system.

(b) The difference between the metered generation of electricity in kilowatt-hours and the net metered output of electricity set forth in paragraph (a). Unless otherwise provided for in a contract for renewable energy, the renewable energy credits certified by the Administrator pursuant to this paragraph must be awarded to the owner of the renewable energy system.

3. The Administrator shall certify renewable energy credits for the line loss factor of a customer-maintained distributed renewable energy system by multiplying the metered number of kilowatt-hours generated and used by the customer who is served by the customer-maintained renewable energy system by a factor of 1.15.

*4. The Administrator shall certify renewable energy credits for participants in the Solar Demonstration Program described in Section 17 of Assembly Bill 32 passed during the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature at 2.4 times the actual or estimated kilowatt-hours produced by the solar renewable energy system.*

*5. The Administrator shall certify renewable energy credits for solar photovoltaic systems as described in Section 2 of Assembly Bill 296 passed during the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature at 2.4 times the actual kilowatt-hours produced by the solar renewable energy system.*

*6. The Administrator shall certify renewable energy credits for a system that uses a reverse polymerization process as described in Section 3 of Assembly Bill 296 passed during the 72nd Session of the Nevada Legislature at 0.7 times the actual kilowatt-hours produced by the solar renewable energy system.*

~~7[4].~~ A solar thermal energy system may use a thermal energy meter to measure the amount of energy generated by the system. The system will be credited with 1 kilowatt-hour of electricity generated for each 3,412 British Thermal Units of heat generated by the solar thermal energy system.

~~8[5].~~ A net metering system will be credited renewable energy credits quarterly based upon the amount of metered electricity generated by the system or, if metering is not used, upon an estimate of the electricity generated by the net metering system by using the method of calculation designated by the regulatory operations staff of the Commission for a solar thermal energy system which does not use a meter to measure the generation of electricity of the system.

~~9[6].~~ The renewable energy credits generated by a net metering system must be assigned to the owner of the net metering system, unless the provisions of subparagraph (2) of paragraph (c) of subsection 2 of NRS 704.775 apply, or another allocation of the renewable energy credits is provided for in a written agreement between the utility provider and the owner of the net metering system.

**10.** If a multiplier is used to certify renewable energy credits for a renewable energy system as described in subsections 3, 4, 5, and 6 only the highest multiplier will be used.

~~11[7].~~ As used in this section:

(a) “Customer-maintained distributed renewable energy system” means a facility or energy system which:

(1) Is used and maintained by an end-use customer;

- (2) Uses renewable energy to generate electricity;
- (3) Does not use the utility's system to transmit or distribute electricity; and
- (4) Uses a meter and other equipment to:
  - (I) Measure the electricity generated by the energy system; and
  - (II) Reduce part, but not more than all, of the electrical load of the customer.

(b) "Solar thermal energy system" means a renewable energy system that uses solar energy for the purpose of producing heat to reduce directly the consumption of electricity.

**Sec. 24. Chapter 704 of NAC is hereby amended by revising Section 16 of the regulation in PUCN Docket No. 02-5029, LCB File No. R 115-03, adopted by the Commission on October 29, 2003, as follows:**

1. Each quarterly statement of renewable energy credits certified by the Administrator pursuant to section 15 of this regulation must be identified by a serial number determined by the Administrator as follows:

- (a) The first four digits must represent the year the renewable energy credit is issued.
- (b) The next two digits must represent the month the renewable energy credit is issued.
- (c) Those digits must be followed by two characters which represent the type of renewable energy.
- (d) Those characters must be followed by six characters which represent a unique number assigned to the renewable energy system by the Commission or Administrator.
- (e) Those characters must be followed by the appropriate number of digits which represent the amount expressed in thousands of kilowatt-hours of electricity generated by the renewable energy system.

2. Each quarterly statement of renewable energy credits must list by month the metered kilowatt-hours of electricity generated by the renewable energy system or, if the renewable energy system does not use a meter to measure the kilowatt-hours of electricity generated, the estimated amount of electricity generated and the type of renewable energy credit identified in section 15 of this regulation. *Renewable energy credits shall not be issued in increments of less than one thousand (1,000) kilowatt-hours.*

3. The unique number assigned to a renewable energy system by the Administrator or Commission pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection 1 is valid for the life of the renewable energy system and may not be changed regardless of any change in the name or ownership of the system.