

**65 Public Utilities Commission**

65-407 Public Utilities Commission

2024-008: Chapter 317, Statewide Arrearage Management Program

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S. §§ 104, 111, 1714, 3214, 10110
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal impact:</b>	<i>Minimal</i>
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Public Utilities Commission amends Chapter 317 of the Commission's Rules regarding the Arrearage Management Program. The Commission amends Chapter 317 to: 1) allow participants to miss two payments before disqualification from the program; 2) allows a ratepayer to participate once every seven years rather than once in a lifetime; 3) allows all Low-income Assistance Program (LIAP) eligible ratepayers to qualify for AMP; 4) increases the maximum monthly AMP benefit to \$500 a month (which increases the total amount eligible for forgiveness to \$6,000 a year); and 5) changes the enrollment process to ensure that participants are not required to pay for more than one month of service at a time when enrolled in AMP. The Commission also approves other non-substantive changes to the rule.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Amending Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2023-00134, issued on December 5, 2023. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-140: Chapter 840, Intervenor and Participant Funding**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 111, and 1310- A
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal impact:</b>	<i>Minimal</i>
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Commission amends its Intervenor Funding Rule (Chapter 840) to comply with recently enacted legislation.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission’s Order Amending Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2022-00299, issued on May 29, 2024. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-143: Chapter 313, Customer Net Energy Billing Rule**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S. §§ 104, 111, 1301, 3209-A, 3209-B
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal impact:</b>	None
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Public Utilities Commission amends its Net Energy Billing (NEB) rule, Chapter 313, to reflect recently enacted legislation.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2023-00284, issued on June 6, 2024. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-172: Chapter 397, Rule Governing Procurement of Renewable Energy Promoting the Use of Contaminated Land**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S. §§ 104, 111, 1301, 3210-J
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	None.
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Commission initiated rulemaking to provide guidance for the procurement of renewable energy resources, including providing a preference for resources located on contaminated lands, in accordance with 35-A M.R.S. § 3210-J.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this Rule is set forth in the Commission’s Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2024-00028, issued on July 23, 2024. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-187 Chapter 815, Consumer Protection Standards for Gas Utilities and Electric Transmission and Distribution Utilities**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S. §§ 104, 111, 704, 719, 1308; P.L. 2021 ch. 347, P.L. 2021, ch. 586.
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	<i>Minimal</i>
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Commission amends its Consumer Protection Standards for Electric and Gas Transmission and Distribution Utilities to include substantial modifications intended to 1) reduce the uncollectible accounts of utilities thereby reducing upward pressure on rates for all customers, 2) amend the dispute resolution procedures, 3) respond to recent legislation, and 4) make routine, stylistic and updating changes.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this Rule is set forth in the Commission’s Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2023-00323, issued on August 13, 2024. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-254: Chapter 895, Underground Facility Damage Prevention Requirements**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	23 M.R.S.A. §3360-A, 35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 104 and 111; PL 2013, ch. 557, Resolves 2015, ch. 9, PL 2015, ch. 213, and PL 2023, ch. 572.
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Public Utilities Commission initiates a rulemaking proceeding to amend chapter 895. The proposed amendments are narrowly tailored for the purpose of reducing the number of Dig Safe tickets issued to operators and owners of underground facilities where the facilities are not located in the area of the planned excavation thereby reducing the administrative burdens associated with participation in the Dig Safe system without compromising safety.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this Chapter is set forth in the Commission's Order Amending Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2024-00157, issued on November 5, 2024. Copies of the Order have been filed with this Chapter at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018.</i>

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**2024-264: Chapter 328, Funding Source for Interconnection Ombudsman**

<b>Statutory Authority:</b>	35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 104, 111, and P.L. 2023, c. 307, as amended by P.L. 2024, c. 643, Sec. WWW-1, codified at 35-A M.R.S. § 3474
<b>Type:</b>	Routine Technical
<b>Emergency?:</b>	No
<b>Fiscal Impact:</b>	None
<b>Principal purpose:</b>	<i>The Public Utilities Commission initiates a rulemaking proceeding to establish an Interconnection Ombudsman Fee and an Interconnection Ombudsman Fee Fund, pursuant to P.L. 2023, Chapter 307, as amended by P.L. 2024, Chapter 643, § WWW-1.</i>
<b>Basis Statement:</b>	<i>The factual and policy basis for this Rule is set forth in the Commission's Order Adopting Rule and Statement of Factual and Policy Basis, Docket No. 2024-00218, issued on November 19, 2024. Copies of this Statement and Order have been filed with this rule at the Office of the Secretary of State. Copies may also be obtained from the Administrative Director, Public Utilities Commission, 18 State House Station, Augusta, Maine, 04333-0018.</i>