



**Section 4.03 ESTIMATED BILLING**

Pursuant to South Dakota Administrative Rules 20:10:17:11, when access to a Meter cannot be gained and the Customer fails to supply a Meter Reading form in time for the billing operation, or Meter data is unavailable, an estimated bill may be rendered by the Company. When necessary, the Company may render estimated bills without reading Meters or supplying Meter Reading forms to Customers.

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Estimated bills are based on the Customer’s normal consumption for a corresponding period during the preceding year, or average consumption during the three preceding months, or any other method authorized by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. As provided in Section 4.02 of these General Rules and Regulations, only in unusual cases (such as inability to gain access to the Meter, failure of Customer to supply Meter Readings, or bad weather), when approval is obtained from the Customer shall more than three consecutive estimated bills be rendered.

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If an estimated bill appears to be abnormal when a subsequent reading or energy consumption is obtained, the bill for the entire period is computed at a rate which contemplates the use of service during the entire period and the estimated bill is deducted. If there is reasonable evidence that the use occurred during only one billing period, the bill shall be so computed.

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If the Advanced Metering Infrastructure is unavailable and Meters are located where the Company has no resident service representative, or the resident service representative is unavailable, the Customer will have the option to choose to have final readings or energy consumption based on an estimate at the time the Customer requests that service be discontinued or an actual reading taken on the next available business day that the service representative can take a final Meter Reading. Estimates will be made on the basis of previous average usage. All estimated readings or energy consumption are clearly marked as such.

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