CHAPTER 216B

PUBLIC UTILITIES

216B.02 DEFINITIONS.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 4. "Public utility" means persons, corporations or other legal entities, their lessees, trustees, and receivers, now or hereafter operating, maintaining, or controlling in this state equipment or facilities for furnishing at retail natural, manufactured or mixed gas or electric service to or for the public or engaged in the production and retail sale thereof but does not include a municipality or a cooperative electric association, organized under the provisions of chapter 308 producing or furnishing natural, manufactured or mixed gas or electric service. Except as otherwise provided, the provisions of this chapter shall not be applicable to any sale of natural, manufactured or mixed gas or electricity by a public utility to another public utility for resale. In addition, the provisions of this chapter shall not apply to a public utility whose total natural gas business consists of supplying natural, manufactured or mixed gas to not more than 650 customers within a city pursuant to a franchise granted by the city, provided a resolution of the city council requesting exemption from regulation is filed with the commission. The city council may rescind the resolution requesting exemption at any time, and, upon the filing of the rescinding resolution with the commission, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to the public utility. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it furnishes its services only to tenants or cooperative or condominium owners in buildings owned, leased or operated by such person. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it furnishes service to occupants of a manufactured home or trailer park owned, leased, or operated by such person. No person shall be deemed to be a public utility if it produces or furnishes service to less than 25 persons.

[For text of subds 5 and 6, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 6a. "Submetering" means measuring, by a building's owner, through mechanical or electronic devices, the use of electricity by occupants in multiple-unit residential or commercial buildings to fairly apportion the entire electrical costs for the building among its occupants.

[For text of subds 7 to 9, see M.S.1982]

History: *1983 c 366 s 1,2*

216B.022 SUBMETERING.

Nothing in this chapter grants the commission or a public utility the authority to limit the availability of submetering to a building occupant when the building is

served by a public utility's master meter which measures the total electric energy delivered to the building.

History: *1983 c 366 s 3*

216B.027 COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION STOCKHOLDER RIGHTS.

Subdivision 1. **Intent.** It is the intent of this section to specify those rights which shall be extended to stockholders of cooperative electric associations. The guarantee of these rights, as specified herein, is intended to further the active participation of stockholders in any and all matters pertaining to the prudent operation of their organization.

Subd. 2. **Scope.** Cooperative associations organized under chapter 308 for the purpose of providing rural electrification at retail to ultimate consumers shall comply with the provisions of this section in addition to other applicable provisions of chapter 308 and other applicable state and federal laws.

Subd. 3. **Business records.** The provisions of section 302A.461 and any amendments or successor requirements to it shall apply to every wholesale or retail cooperative electric association. The rights granted to wholesale and retail electric cooperative stockholders in this section shall apply also to the spouse of the stockholder. In addition to the requirements of section 302A.461, a wholesale or retail electric cooperative shall maintain records of all proceedings of meetings of stockholders and directors during the previous three-year period including the vote of each director on roll call votes. Roll call votes are required on actions which directly establish service charge and rate schedules. Roll call voting is also required on any matter upon the request of one or more directors. Every duly elected director of a retail cooperative electric association shall have the right to inspect under section 302A.461, in person and at any reasonable time, the business records required by this subdivision and maintained by the wholesale cooperative electric association from which it purchases the majority of its electric requirements.

Subd. 4. **Open meetings.** Meetings of the board of directors of any retail cooperative electric association must be open to the stockholders of the cooperative and the stockholders' spouses. Stockholders must be given notice of all regularly scheduled meetings except those of an emergency nature. Duly elected directors of retail cooperative associations must be given notice, through their retail cooperative associations, of all meetings of the board of directors of the wholesale cooperative association, except those of an emergency nature, from which the retail cooperative purchases the majority of its electric requirements. Portions of meetings relating to labor negotiations, current litigation, personnel matters, and nonpayment of customer accounts are excluded from the provisions of this subdivision.

Subd. 5. **Petitions; voting.** Notwithstanding the provisions of section 308.09, upon receipt of a written petition concerning governance matters signed by at least 500 stockholders or five percent of the stockholders, whichever is less, of a retail cooperative electric association, the matter in the petition must be presented to the stockholders of the cooperative for a vote at the next annual meeting. Petitions must be received by the cooperative electric association 60 days prior to the scheduled annual meeting. For purposes of this section, "governance matters" means matters properly contained in the articles of incorporation or bylaws by adopting, amending, or repealing bylaws or the articles of incorporation.

Subd. 6. **Equal time; petitioners.** Whenever the directors of a retail cooperative electric association provide information to stockholders to influence their vote on a matter to be decided by a vote of the stockholders pursuant to a successful petition submitted under the provisions of subdivision 5 or section 216B.026, subdivision 4, the directors shall provide the organizers of the petition or person presenting the petition the opportunity to include their position on the matter to the stockholders in a substantially similar mode and range of distribution. The organizers of the petition shall pay the costs of such inclusion.

Subd. 7. **Optional referendum.** No cooperative shall be bound by the provisions of this section unless adoption has been approved at referendum using the petition and election procedures in section 216B.026. Within 60 days of the effective date of this section, the board of directors of each cooperative electric association shall notify the stockholders of the provisions of this section and shall explain the process for ratification by petition and election as provided in this subdivision.

History: *1983 c 162 s 1*

216B.03 REASONABLE RATE.

Every rate made, demanded, or received by any public utility, or by any two or more public utilities jointly, shall be just and reasonable. Rates shall not be unreasonably preferential, unreasonably prejudicial or discriminatory, but shall be sufficient, equitable and consistent in application to a class of consumers. To the maximum reasonable extent, the commission shall set rates to encourage energy conservation and renewable energy use and to further the goals of sections 116J.05, 216B.164, and 216B.241. Any doubt as to reasonableness should be resolved in favor of the consumer. For rate making purposes a public utility may treat two or more municipalities served by it as a single class wherever the populations are comparable in size or the conditions of service are similar.

History: *1983 c 179 s 4*

216B.075 PUBLIC UTILITY METER READING; ACCOMMODATION OF CUSTOMER SCHEDULING NEEDS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of rule or policy to the contrary, every public utility providing natural gas or electricity at retail shall make a reasonable effort to obtain readings at least once every 18 months from nonaccessible meters. Readings shall be obtained at times that meet the needs of customer schedules. Utilities shall make a reasonable effort to provide evening and Saturday or Sunday meter reading service at no extra charge to a customer whose work or other schedule makes a business hour reading of meters a hardship. Utilities may refuse to read a customer's meter during nondaylight hours if such activity could threaten the safety of the utility meter-reading employee.

A utility may also allow a customer to self-read the customer's meter for periods of time not to exceed 18 months, provided that the customer is reminded periodically of the potentially serious financial consequences of errors in self-reading.

A utility may terminate service to a customer who refuses to allow a utility company employee access to a nonaccessible meter for a period of 18 months or more.

History: *1983 c 176 s 1*

216B.16 RATE CHANGES; PROCEDURE; HEARING.

Subdivision 1. **Notice.** Unless the commission otherwise orders, no public utility shall change a rate which has been duly established under this chapter, except upon 60 days notice to the commission. The notice shall include statements of facts, expert opinions, substantiating documents, and exhibits including an energy conservation improvement plan pursuant to section 216B.241, supporting the change requested, and state the change proposed to be made in the rates then in force and the time when the modified rates will go into effect. The filing utility shall give written notice, as approved by the commission, of the proposed change to the governing body of each municipality and county in the area affected. All proposed changes shall be shown by filing new schedules or shall be plainly indicated upon schedules on file and in force at the time.

[For text of subds 1a and 2, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 3. **Interim rates.** Notwithstanding any order of suspension of a proposed increase in rates, the commission shall order an interim rate schedule into effect not later than 60 days after the initial filing date. The commission shall order the interim rate schedule ex parte without a public hearing. Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 216.25, 216B.27 and 216B.52, no interim rate schedule ordered by the commission pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to an application for a rehearing or an appeal to a court until the commission has rendered its final determination. Unless the commission finds that exigent circumstances exist, the interim rate schedule shall be calculated using the proposed test year cost of capital, rate base, and expenses, except that it shall include: (1) a rate of return on common equity for the utility equal to that authorized by the commission in the utility's most recent rate proceeding; (2) rate base or expense items the same in nature and kind as those allowed by a currently effective order of the commission in the utility's most recent rate proceeding; and (3) no change in the existing rate design. In the case of a utility which has not been subject to a prior commission determination, the commission shall base the interim rate schedule on its most recent determination concerning a similar utility.

If, at the time of its final determination, the commission finds that the interim rates are in excess of the rates in the final determination, the commission shall order the utility to refund the excess amount collected under the interim rate schedule, including interest on it which shall be at the rate of interest determined by the commission. The utility shall commence distribution of the refund to its customers within 120 days of the final order, not subject to rehearing or appeal. If, at the time of its final determination, the commission finds that the interim rates are less than the rates in the final determination, the commission shall prescribe a method by which the utility will recover the difference in revenues from the date of the final determination to the date the new rate schedules are put into effect.

If the public utility fails to make refunds within the period of time prescribed by the commission, the commission shall sue therefor and may recover on behalf of all persons entitled to a refund. In addition to the amount of the refund and interest due, the commission shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorney's fees, court costs and estimated cost of administering the distribution of the refund to persons entitled to it. No suit under this subdivision shall be maintained unless instituted within two years after the end of the period of time prescribed by the commission for repayment of refunds. The commission shall not order an interim rate schedule into effect as provided by this subdivision until at least four months after it has made a final determination concerning any previously filed change of

the rate schedule or the change has otherwise become effective under subdivision 2, unless it finds that a four month delay would unreasonably burden the utility, its customers, or its shareholders and that an earlier imposition of interim rates is therefore necessary.

[For text of subds 4 to 9, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 10. **Intervenor payment.** The commission may order a utility to pay all or a portion of a party's intervention costs not to exceed $20,000 per intervenor in any proceeding when the commission finds that the intervenor has materially assisted the commission's deliberation and the intervenor has insufficient financial resources to afford the costs of intervention.

History: *1983 c 179 s 5; 1983 c 247 s 95; 1983 c 289 s 104*

216B.164 COGENERATION AND SMALL POWER PRODUCTION.

[For text of subd 1, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 2. **Applicability.** This section as well as any rules promulgated by the commission to implement this section or the public utility regulatory policies act of 1978, Public Law 95-617, 92 Stat. 3117, and the federal energy regulatory commission regulations thereunder, Code of Federal Regulations, title 18, part 292, shall apply to all Minnesota electric utilities, including cooperative electric associations and municipal electric utilities.

Subd. 3. **Purchases; small facilities.** (a) For a qualifying facility having less than 40 kilowatt capacity, the customer shall be billed for the net energy supplied by the utility according to the applicable rate schedule for sales to that class of customer. In the case of net input into the utility system by a qualifying facility having less than 40 kilowatt capacity, compensation to the customer shall be at a per kilowatt hour rate determined under paragraph (b) or (c) of this subdivision.

(b) In setting rates, the commission shall consider the fixed distribution costs to the utility not otherwise accounted for in the basic monthly charge and shall ensure that the costs charged to the qualifying facility are not discriminatory in relation to the costs charged to other customers of the utility. The commission shall set the rates for net input into the utility system based on avoided costs as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 18, section 292.101(b)(6), the factors listed in Code of Federal Regulations, title 18, section 292.304, and all other relevant factors.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision in this chapter to the contrary, a qualifying facility having less than 40 kilowatt capacity may elect that the compensation for net input by the qualifying facility into the utility system shall be at the average retail utility energy rate. "Average retail utility energy rate" is defined as the average of the retail energy rates, exclusive of special rates based on income, age, or energy conservation, according to the applicable rate schedule of the utility for sales to that class of customer.

(d) If the qualifying facility is interconnected with a nongenerating utility which has a sole source contract with a municipal power agency or a generation and transmission utility, the nongenerating utility may elect to treat its purchase of any net input under this subdivision as being made on behalf of its supplier and shall be reimbursed by its supplier for any additional costs incurred in making the purchase. Qualifying facilities having less than 40 kilowatt capacity may, at the customer's option, elect to be governed by the provisions of subdivision 4.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 5. **Disputes.** In the event of disputes between an electric utility and a qualifying facility, either party may request a determination of the issue by the commission. In any such determination, the burden of proof shall be on the utility. The commission in its order resolving each such dispute shall require payments to the prevailing party of the prevailing party's costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorneys' fees, except that the qualifying facility will be required to pay the costs, disbursements, and attorneys' fees of the utility only if the commission finds that the claims of the qualifying facility in the dispute have been made in bad faith, or are a sham, or frivolous.

Subd. 6. **Rules and uniform contract.** (a) The commission shall promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this section. The commission shall also establish a uniform statewide form of contract for use between utilities and a qualifying facility having less than 40 kilowatt capacity.

(b) The commission shall require the qualifying facility to provide the utility with reasonable access to the premises and equipment of the qualifying facility if the particular configuration of the qualifying facility precludes disconnection or testing of the qualifying facility from the utility side of the interconnection with the utility remaining responsible for its personnel.

(c) The uniform statewide form of contract shall be applied to all new and existing interconnections established between a utility and a qualifying facility having less than 40 kilowatt capacity, except that existing contracts may remain in force until written notice of election that the uniform statewide contract form applies is given by either party to the other, with the notice being of the shortest time period permitted under the existing contract for termination of the existing contract by either party, but not less than ten nor longer than 30 days.

(d) The commission may promulgate temporary rules for the purpose of implementing this section. The temporary rules are subject to sections 14.29 to 14.36.

[For text of subd 7, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 8. **Customer, interconnection and wheeling charges.** (a) Utilities shall be required to interconnect with a qualifying facility that offers to provide available energy or capacity and that satisfies the requirements of this section.

(b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to excuse the qualifying facility from any obligation for costs of interconnection and wheeling in excess of those normally incurred by the utility for customers with similar load characteristics who are not cogenerators or small power producers, or from any fixed charges normally assessed such nongenerating customers.

Subd. 9. **Municipal electric utilities.** For purposes of this section only, except subdivisions 5 and 7, and with respect to municipal electric utilities only, the term "commission" means the governing body of each municipal electric utility that adopts and has in effect rules implementing this section which are consistent with the rules adopted by the Minnesota public utilities commission under subdivision 6. As used in this subdivision, the governing body of a municipal electric utility means the city council of that municipality; except that, if another board, commission, or body is empowered by law or resolution of the city council or by its charter to establish and regulate rates and days for the distribution of electric energy within the service area of the city, that board, commission, or body shall be considered the governing body of the municipal electric utility.

History: *1983 c 301 s 166-171*

216B.241 ENERGY CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this subdivision shall have the meanings given them:

(a) "Commission" means the public utilities commission, department of public service;

(b) "Energy conservation improvement" means the purchase or installation of any device, method or material that increases the efficiency in the use of electricity or natural gas including, but not limited to:

(1) insulation and ventilation;

(2) storm or thermal doors or windows;

(3) caulking and weatherstripping;

(4) furnace efficiency modifications;

(5) thermostat or lighting controls;

(6) awnings; or

(7) systems to turn off or vary the delivery of energy. The term "energy conservation improvement" includes any device or method which creates, converts or actively uses energy from renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass providing such device or method conforms with national or state performance and quality standards whenever applicable.

(c) "Investments and expenses of a public utility" includes the investments and expenses incurred by a public utility in connection with an energy conservation improvement including, but not limited to:

(1) the differential in interest cost between the market rate and the rate charged on a no interest or below market interest loan made by a public utility to a customer for the purchase or installation of an energy conservation improvement;

(2) the difference between the utility's cost of purchase or installation of energy conservation improvements and any price charged by a public utility to a customer for such improvements.

(d) "Public utility" has the same meaning as given that term in section 216B.02, subdivision 4. For the purposes of this section, "public utility" shall not include cooperative electric associations that become subject to rate regulation after April 16, 1980.

Subd. 2. **Programs.** The commission may order public utilities to make investments and expenditures in energy conservation improvements, explicitly setting forth the interest rates, prices, and terms under which the improvements shall be offered to the customers. The commission shall order at least one public utility to establish a pilot program to make investments in and expenditures for energy from renewable resources such as solar, wind, or biomass. The commission shall evaluate the program on the basis of cost-effectiveness and the reliability of technologies employed. The order of the commission shall provide to the extent practicable for a free choice, by consumers participating in the program, of the device, method, or material constituting the energy conservation improvement and for a free choice of the seller, installer, or contractor of the energy conservation improvement, provided that the device, method, material, seller, installer, or contractor is duly licensed, certified, approved, or qualified, including under the residential conservation services program, where applicable. The commission may order a utility to make an energy conservation improvement investment or expenditure whenever the commission finds that the improvement will result in energy savings at a total cost to the utility less than the cost to the utility to

produce or purchase an equivalent amount of new supply of energy. The commission shall nevertheless insure that every public utility with operating revenues in excess of $50,000,000 operate one or more programs, under periodic review by the commission, which make significant investments in and expenditures for energy conservation improvements. The commission shall give special consideration to the needs of renters and low income families and individuals. Provisions of the previous sentences shall expire on January 1, 1993. Investments and expenditures made pursuant to an order shall be treated for ratemaking purposes in the manner prescribed in section 216B.16, subdivision 6b. No utility shall make an energy conservation improvement pursuant to this section to a building envelope unless it is the primary supplier of energy used for either space heating or cooling in the building.

Subd. 3. **Ownership of energy conservation improvements.** Any energy conservation improvement made to or installed in any building pursuant to this section, except systems owned by the utility and designed to turn off, limit, or vary the delivery of energy, shall be the exclusive property of the owner of the building except insofar as it is subjected to a security interest in favor of the utility in case of a loan to the building owner. The utility shall have no liability for loss, damage or injury caused directly or indirectly by any energy conservation improvement except for negligence by the utility in purchase, installation, or modification of the product.

[For text of subd 4, see M.S.1982]

History: *1983 c 179 s 6-8*

216B.242 INVERTED RATES.

The commission may initiate a program designed to demonstrate the effect of inverted rates on promoting conservation by the residential customers of natural gas utilities. Any inverted rates ordered by the commission shall present customers with a tailblock price that, to the maximum extent practicable, reflects the replacement cost of gas. Total revenues collected from customers involved in this pilot program may not exceed those that would be collected under a flat rate. The commission may order one public gas utility to implement a pilot program of inverted rates for residential customers and to monitor the effects of these rates on gas consumption, and on costs to residential customers. The program shall include a sufficient number of residential customers to provide statistically significant conclusions regarding the effects and costs of inverted rates. The inverted rate schedules and monitoring plans shall be prepared in consultation with the commissioner of energy, planning and development.

History: *1983 c 301 s 172*

216B.44 MUNICIPAL SERVICE TERRITORY EXTENSIONS.

Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 216B.38 to 216B.42, whenever a municipality which owns and operates an electric utility (a) extends its corporate boundaries through annexation or consolidation, or (b) determines to extend its service territory within its existing corporate boundaries, the municipality shall thereafter furnish electric service to these areas unless the area is already receiving electric service from an electric utility, in which event, the municipality may purchase the facilities of the electric utility serving the area. The municipality acquiring the facilities shall pay to the electric utility formerly serving the area the appropriate value of its properties within the area which payment may be by

exchange of other electric utility property outside the municipality on an appropriate basis giving due consideration to revenue from and value of the respective properties. In the event the municipality and the electric utility involved are unable to agree as to the terms of the payment or exchange, the municipality or the electric utility may file an application with the commission requesting that the commission determine the appropriate terms for the exchange or sale. After notice and hearing, the commission shall determine appropriate terms for an exchange, or in the event no appropriate properties can be exchanged, the commission shall fix and determine the appropriate value of the property within the annexed area, and the transfer shall be made as directed by the commission. In making that determination the commission shall consider the original cost of the property, less depreciation, loss of revenue to the utility formerly serving the area, expenses resulting from integration of facilities, and other appropriate factors. Until the determination by the commission, the facilities shall remain in place and service to the public shall be maintained by the owner. However, the electric utility being displaced, serving the annexed area, shall not extend service to any additional points of delivery within the annexed area if the commission, after notice and hearing, with due consideration of any unnecessary duplication of facilities, shall determine that the extension is not in the public interest.

When property of an electric utility located within an area annexed to a municipality which owns and operates an electric utility is proposed to be acquired by the municipality, ratification by the electors is not required.

When property of an electric utility located within the existing corporate boundaries of a municipality that currently operates a municipal electric utility is proposed to be included within the service territory of the municipal electric utility, ratification by the electors is not required.

History: *1983 c 301 s 173*

216B.465 VOTER RATIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL PURCHASE, LIMITED APPLICATION.

The provisions of sections 216B.45 and 216B.46 apply only to the purchase of public utility property by a municipality that, prior to the time of the purchase, did not operate a municipal utility providing the type of utility service delivered by the utility property being purchased.

In cases where the municipality operates, prior to the purchase of public utility property, a municipal utility providing the type of utility service delivered by the utility property being purchased, the provisions of section 216B.44 apply and voter ratification is not required.

History: *1983 c 301 s 174*

216B.49 SECURITIES.

[For text of subds 1 to 5, see M.S.1982]

Subd. 7. When a public utility is engaged in a project pursuant to chapter 474, notwithstanding the provisions of section 474.03, funds or accounts established in connection with the project or payment of bonds issued for the project may also be invested in investments of the type authorized in section 11A.24, subdivisions 1 to 5.

History: *1983 c 167 s 1*

216B.52 APPEALS.

Subdivision 1. **Appeals.** Any party to a proceeding before the commission or any other person, aggrieved by a decision and order and directly affected by it, may appeal from the decision and order of the commission in accordance with chapter 14.

Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1983 c 247 s 219]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1983 c 247 s 219]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1983 c 247 s 219]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1983 c 247 s 219]

History: *1983 c 247 s 96*

216B.55 [Repealed, 1983 c 247 s 219]

216B.62 COST OF EXAMINATION; ASSESSMENT OF EXPENSES; LIMITATIONS; OBJECTIONS.

Subd. 2. Whenever the commission or department, in a proceeding upon its own motion, on complaint, or upon an application to it, shall deem it necessary, in order to carry out the duties imposed under this chapter and section 216A.085, to investigate the books, accounts, practices, and activities of, or make appraisals of the property of any public utility, or to render any engineering or accounting services to any public utility, or to intervene before an energy regulatory agency, the public utility shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable to the investigation, appraisal, service, or intervention. The commission and department shall ascertain the expenses, and the department shall render a bill therefor to the public utility, either at the conclusion of the investigation, appraisal, or services, or from time to time during its progress, which bill shall constitute notice of the assessment and a demand for payment. The amount of the bills so rendered by the department shall be paid by the public utility into the state treasury within 30 days from the date of rendition. The total amount, in any one calendar year, for which any public utility shall become liable, by reason of costs incurred by the commission within that calendar year, shall not exceed two-fifths of one percent of the gross operating revenue from retail sales of gas, or electric service by the public utility within the state in the last preceding calendar year. Where, pursuant to this subdivision, costs are incurred within any calendar year which are in excess of two-fifths of one percent of the gross operating revenues, the excess costs shall not be chargeable as part of the remainder under subdivision 3, but shall be paid out of the general appropriation to the department and commission. In the case of public utilities offering more than one public utility service only the gross operating revenues from the public utility service in connection with which the investigation is being conducted shall be considered when determining this limitation.

Subd. 3. The department and commission shall quarterly, at least 30 days before the start of each quarter, estimate the total of their expenditures in the performance of their duties relating to public utilities under section 216A.085, and sections 216B.01 to 216B.67, other than amounts chargeable to public utilities under subdivision 2 or 6. The remainder shall be assessed by the commission and department to the several public utilities in proportion to their respective gross operating revenues from retail sales of gas or electric service within the state during the last calendar year. The assessment shall be paid into the state treasury within 30 days after the bill has been mailed to the several public utilities, which shall constitute notice of the assessment and demand of payment thereof. The

total amount which may be assessed to the public utilities, under authority of this subdivision, shall not exceed one-eighth of one percent of the total gross operating revenues of the public utilities during the calendar year from retail sales of gas or electric service within the state. The assessment for the second quarter of each fiscal year shall be adjusted to compensate for the amount by which actual expenditures by the commission and department for the preceding fiscal year were more or less than the estimated expenditures previously assessed.

[For text of subds 4 to 6, see M.S.1982]

History: *1983 c 289 s 105,106*