

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: PEOPLES NATURAL GAS COMPANY, DIVISION OF UTILICORP UNITED INC.	DOCKET NO. WRU-00-16-225 (WRU-99-13-225)
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ORDER EXTENDING PILOT PROJECT AND REQUIRING REPORT

(Issued April 21, 2000)

On March 9, 2000, Peoples Natural Gas Company (Peoples), Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for waiver of portions of 199 IAC 19.3(7) and (8) which require utilities to schedule monthly meter readings. Specifically, Peoples requests the Board allow it to continue the bimonthly meter reading project for the year 2000 under the same conditions granted in the Board's May 6, 1999, "Order Extending Pilot Project and Requiring Reports" in Docket No. WRU-99-13-225.

Peoples states that under the pilot program, Peoples performs bimonthly natural gas meter readings for all residential customers during the six months beginning May 1 and ending October 31. Peoples contends that a waiver for 2000 is necessary if it is to continue the program this May 2000.

The Board has reviewed Peoples request and will grant an extension of the pilot project on the same terms and conditions contained in the Board's May 6, 1999, order in Docket No. WRU-99-13-225. The project allows Peoples to control costs in

a method that will not affect the quality of service to its customers. In addition, the December 30, 1999, report filed by Peoples, as amended on January 18, 2000, reveals that from the 124,464 estimated bills issued, Peoples received only 29 complaints. The Board will require Peoples to file an information report for 2000 containing the same information as prior reports on or before December 31, 2000.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The request to extend the bimonthly meter reading pilot program filed by Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., on March 9, 2000, identified as Docket No. WRU-00-16-225, is granted.

2. Peoples Natural Gas Company, Division of UtiliCorp United Inc., shall file a report on or before December 31, 2000.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Allan T. Thoms

/s/ Susan J. Frye

ATTEST:

/s/ Raymond K. Vawter, Jr.
Executive Secretary

/s/ Diane Munns

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21st day of April, 2000.