

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: INQUIRY INTO ELECTRIC LOAD SERVICE LIMITERS	DOCKET NO. NOI-08-1
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ORDER SCHEDULING WORKSHOP

(Issued April 23, 2008)

On January 8, 2008, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an "Order Initiating Inquiry" in Docket No. NOI-08-1 to review its current rules regarding electric load service limiters. This review is timely in light of the new technology and range of applications available from new electric meters, many of which have multiple capabilities, including use as a service limiter. The Board's order commencing the inquiry gave a brief history of electric service load limiters and the Board's current rule, 199 IAC 20.4(23). The order contained seven questions that inquiry participants were asked to respond to; additional comments on areas not covered by the questions were also encouraged.

Written comments were filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice, the Iowa Department of Human Rights, Iowa Legal Aid, Interstate Power and Light Company, the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, MidAmerican Energy Company, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, and Consumers Energy Cooperative (Consumers Energy). After reviewing the comments, the Board believes a workshop involving interested persons and the

Board's staff would be useful to develop a baseline understanding of the new technology, including how the operation of the new service limiters contrasts with the use of the old mechanical collars, and perhaps narrow the legal and policy issues implicated by the use of service limiters. Therefore, a workshop will be scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, in conference rooms 3 and 4 at the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

The workshop will begin with a discussion of how the new generation of meters works as a service limiter, along with its other functions. This should provide a mutual understanding for all inquiry participants as to what the new meters can do and how the limiter function physically operates. In particular, the Board's staff wants to determine the various ways these devices can be reset, such as manually by the customer, automatically after a certain time, or remotely after a telephone call from a customer. There will then be a brief discussion of how these new meters are different from the mechanical collars that were used as service-limiting devices in the past. This discussion should be particularly relevant on the issue of whether these new meters, which can limit service as one of its many functions, should be removed after the bill is paid or a payment agreement reached. The current rules provide for such removal, but they were adopted when the mechanical collar served only one function — to limit service.

Other issues that will be discussed at the workshop include whether there are any conflicts that the use of service limiters might have with the winter moratorium, whether there should be any limits on the use of service limiters for customers who are not eligible for, or who have not registered for, the low income home energy

assistance program, whether there should be any limits on the customer's voluntary participation in a service limiter program as an alternative to disconnection, and the criteria for setting any service limits (for example, use of a single limit for everyone or limiting to a percentage of monthly use, or other possible criteria). Time permitting, inquiry participants may have other subject areas they wish to address. The workshop will last no more than one day. If other workshops are needed, they will be scheduled by subsequent order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A workshop in Docket No. NOI-08-1 for inquiry participants and other interested persons shall be held beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. The workshop shall be held in conference rooms 3 and 4 at the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Board at (515) 281-5256 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Darrell Hanson

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 23rd day of April, 2008.