

REGULATORY PLAN FOR 2015-16

Iowa Utilities Board

The plan is prepared in compliance with Executive Order Number Nine, issued September 14, 1999. Section IV of that order defines a “regulatory action” as a potential rule that is currently under active consideration or development with the agency that the agency reasonably expects to issue in proposed or final form. Based upon that definition, the Board is considering the following regulatory actions for 2015-2016.

Review of All Agency Rules. The Board is commencing a comprehensive process for the review of all 45 chapters of its rules. The goal is to eliminate outdated and redundant rules and rules that are inconsistent with statutes, rules, or other applicable legal requirements. The process will start with consultation with major stakeholders and constituent groups on a chapter-by-chapter basis.

The review will benefit the public by clarifying and streamlining agency rules and eliminating unnecessary regulations, which will promote economic growth and development.

The review will be conducted pursuant to the Board’s rulemaking authority in Iowa Code chapter 476 and subsequent chapters. The proposed timeline for reviewing each chapter is being developed.

Limitations on Old Debt Collections. The Board recently completed a notice of inquiry proceeding to consider whether the existing statute of limitations, Iowa Code § 614.1, applies to utilities trying to collect old debts by refusing to re-connect monopoly utility services. The Board concluded that the statutory limitation applies only to judicial actions to collect debts, so the Board will initiate a rulemaking proceeding to consider adopting a ten-year limitation on collection of old utility accounts by means of denial of service.