

4901:1-18-01 **Definitions.**

For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

- (A) "Applicant" means any person who requests or makes application with a utility company for any of the following residential services: electric, gas, or natural gas.
- (B) "Arrearages" means for each percentage of income payment plan (PIPP) customer such customer's current bill balance, plus the customer's accrued arrearage at the time the customer enrolls in the PIPP program, but does not include past due monthly PIPP payments.
- (C) "Bona fide dispute" means a complaint registered with the commission's call center or a formal complaint filed with the commission's docketing division.
- (D) "Collection charge" means a tariffed charge assessed to a residential customer by a utility company when payment or proof of payment is given to a utility company employee or agent sent to disconnect the service and who is authorized to accept payment in lieu of disconnection.
- (E) "Commission" means the public utilities commission of Ohio.
- (F) "Consumer" means any person who is an ultimate user of electric, gas, or natural gas utility service.
- (G) "Customer" means any person who enters into an agreement, whether by contract or under a tariff, to purchase: electric, gas, or natural gas utility service.
- (H) "Customer premise" means the service address where the customer receives the residential electric, gas, or natural gas utility service.
- (I) "Default" means the failure to make the required payment on an extended payment plan by the due date.
- (J) "Extended payment plan" means an agreement between the customer and the company that requires the customer to make payments over a set period of time to the company on unpaid amounts owed to the company.
- (K) "Former percentage of income payment plan customer" (former PIPP customer) means a customer that remains within the gas or natural gas utility company's service territory who elects to terminate participation in the percentage of income payment plan program or is no longer eligible to participate in the percentage of income payment plan as a result of an increase in the household income or change in the household size and is not in a graduate percentage of income payment plan.
- (L) "Fraudulent act" means an intentional misrepresentation or concealment by the customer or consumer of a material fact that the electric, gas, or natural gas utility company relies on to its detriment. "Fraudulent act" does not include tampering.

- (M) "Graduate percentage of income payment plan customer" (graduate PIPP customer) means a customer who was previously enrolled in a percentage of income payment plan and who meets the requirements, as set forth in rule 4901:1-18-16 of the Administrative Code, to participate in the transitional phase of the income-based payment plan for low-income, residential customers served by regulated electric, gas, and natural gas utility companies.
- (N) "Household income" has the meaning attributed to it by the Ohio department of development, office of community services, in the administration of the home energy assistance program.
- (O) "Percentage of income payment plan" (PIPP) means the income-based payment plan for low-income, residential customers served by regulated electric, gas, and natural gas utility companies.
- (P) "PIPP anniversary date" means the calendar date by which the PIPP customer must document his or her household income and household size to continue participation in the PIPP program or participate in the graduate PIPP program. The anniversary date shall be every twelve months from when the customer was enrolled in PIPP.
- (Q) "PIPP customer" means the customer currently enrolled in PIPP.
- (R) "PIPP reverification date" means the actual date on which the PIPP customer documented his or her household income and household size to continue participation in the PIPP program or graduate PIPP program. This date is used to calculate when any missed PIPP payments are due for continued PIPP program participation.
- (S) "Tampering" means to interfere with, damage, or by-pass a utility meter, conduit, or attachment with the intent to impede the correct registration of a meter or the proper functions of a conduit or attachment so as to reduce the amount of utility service that is registered on the meter. Tampering includes the unauthorized reconnection of an electric, gas, or natural gas meter, or a conduit or attachment that has been disconnected by the utility company.
- (T) "Utility company" means all persons, firms, or corporations engaged in the business of providing electric, gas, or natural gas service to consumers as defined in division (A)(11) of section 4928.01, division (A)(5) of section 4905.03, and division (G) of section 4929.01 of the Revised Code, respectively.
- (U) "Winter heating season" means the time period from November first through April fifteenth.

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