Gas Affordability Program ("GAP") Rider

Section V 2nd Revised Sheet No. 21

1. Availability

Available to residential customers who received Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") assistance during the most recent federal fiscal year. ("Qualified Customers").

2. Participation Cap

Participation in the GAP by Qualified Customers will be capped at three percent of Greater Minnesota Gas's ("GMG") total residential customers.

3. Program Description and Rate Impact for Qualified Customers

The GAP is designed to meet the requirements of Minn.Stat.§ 216B.16, subd.15, concerning low income programs and has two components: an affordability component and an arrearage forgiveness component. GMG's GAP pilot is extended through December 31, 2016 or such time as the Commission approves an alternative program.

Affordability Component: The Affordability Component of the GAP consists of a waiver of the monthly facility charge of a Qualified Customer. This waiver is a program cost that will be included in a deferred account, for recovery in GMG's next general rate case. The Affordability Component will be reviewed & administered on a quarterly basis.

<u>Arrearage Forgiveness Component</u>: The Arrearage Forgiveness Component of the GAP consists of a one-time bill credit of \$102.00 to be applied to a Qualified Customer's bill at the end of the program year if the Qualified Customer makes 12 consecutive months of timely payments. This bill credit is a program cost that will be included in a deferred account, for recovery in GMG's next general rate case.

4. Application Process and Conditions of Service

Participation in the GAP is open to all Qualified Customers on a first come, first served basis, up to a maximum of three percent of GMG's current residential customer base.

The GAP is offered on a calendar year basis, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st. GMG will mail information on the GAP including an application to participate to all residential customers who received Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") assistance during the most recent federal fiscal year on or about November 1st of each year. The application must be completed in full and returned to GMG by November 30th of each year.

Regardless of arrearage levels, GMG agrees to maintain service and suspend collection to Qualified Customers as long as the Qualified Customer maintains timely payments.

Qualified Customers agree to notify GMG of any changes in address and any changes in their eligibility as a Qualified Customer. Qualified Customers who do not continue to qualify under the provisions of Section 1, above, may be removed from the GAP.

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Gas Affordability Program ("GAP") Rider (Continued)

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4. Application Process and Conditions of Service (Continued)

A Qualified Customer who fails to pay two consecutive monthly payments will be terminated from the GAP and will be subject to GMG's regular collection activities, including the possibility of disconnection.

5. Customer Notice

GMG submitted a revised GAP customer notice and application form to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commision on December 20, 2012.

Revisions to the GAP customer notice and application form may be proposed in the future by GMG, after consultation with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office, and approved by the Commission's Executive Secretary.

6. Cost Recovery

The GAP program costs include the Affordability Component costs, the Arrearage Forgivness Component costs, and carrying charges, calculated based on the overall cost of captial approved by the MPUC in GMG's most recent rate case ("Program Costs"). GMG will establish a deferred account for all Program Costs, for review and recovery in GMG's next general rate case.

7. Annual Tracker Reporting and Evaluation

GMG's obligation to annually track and report information regarding the GAP will begin on January 1st and end on December 31, 2016. By March 31st each year, GMG will file a report with the Commission indicating:

- 1. Total number of customers that received a LIHEAP grant during the previous year.
- 2. Total number of customers that participated in GAP during the previous year.
- 3. Total number of customers removed from GAP during the course of the year
- 4. Total dollars billed to customers in GAP by GMG during the year.
- 5. Total dollars paid by LIHEAP on behalf of customers in GAP during the year
- 6. Total dollars paid by customers in GAP during the year
- 7. Total dollars in credits issued to customers in GAP as a result of the Affordability Component and the Arrearage Foregiveness Component during the year.

8. End-of-Term Program Evaluation

GMG will provide an evaluation for the two year extension period (January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2014) program by June 1, 2014.

<u>Analysis of Program</u>: GMG will report its conclusions regarding the reported evaluation data and GMG's proposal concerning the GAP on a going forward basis.

9. Program Revocation

Upon approval by the Commission, the GAP is effective for its current term, extended until December 31, 2015, unless the Commission, after notice and hearing, rescinds or amends its order approving the GAP.

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10. Applicability

Unless otherwise specified in this GAP Rider, Qualified Customers in the GAP shall receive service in accordance with all terms and conditions of the standard gas service tariffs applicable to residential customers.

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