§ 35.18 Asset retirement obligations.

(a) A public utility that files a rate schedule, tariff or service agreement under §35.12 or §35.13 and has recorded an asset retirement obligation on its books must provide a schedule, as part of the supporting work papers, identifying all cost components related to the asset retirement obligations that are included in the book balances of all accounts reflected in the cost of service computation supporting the proposed rates. However, all cost components related to asset retirement obligations that would impact the calculation of rate base, such as electric plant and related accumulated depreciation and accumulated deferred income taxes, may not be reflected in rates and must be removed from the rate base calculation through a single adjustment.

(b) A public utility seeking to recover nonrate base costs related to asset retirement costs in rates must provide, with its filing under §35.12 or §35.13, a detailed study supporting the amounts proposed to be collected in rates.

(c) A public utility that has recorded asset retirement obligations on its books, but is not seeking recovery of the asset retirement costs in rates, must remove all asset-retirement-obligations-related cost components from the cost of service supporting its proposed rates.

(1) The public utility whose proposed increased rates or charges were suspended shall refund at such time in such amounts and in such manner as required by final order of the Commission the portion of any increased rates or charges found by the Commission in that suspension proceeding not to be justified, together with interest as required in paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(2) Interest shall be computed from the date of collection until the date refunds are made as follows:

(i) At a rate of seven percent simple interest per annum on all excessive rates or charges held prior to October 10, 1974;

(ii) At a rate of nine percent simple interest per annum on all excessive rates or charges held between October 10, 1974, and September 30, 1979;

(iii)(A) At an average prime rate for each calendar quarter on all excessive rates or charges held (including all interest applicable to such rates or charges) on or after October 1, 1979. The applicable average prime rate for each calendar quarter shall be the arithmetic mean, to the nearest one-hundredth of one percent, of the prime rate values published in the Federal Reserve Bulletin, or in the Federal Reserve’s “Selected Interest Rates” (Statistical Release H.15), for the fourth, third, and second months preceding the first month of the calendar quarter.

(B) The interest required to be paid under clause (iii)(A) shall be compounded quarterly.