

# Minnesota Cold Weather Rule Application

## Inability to Pay Declaration Form

**IF YOU CAN'T PAY YOUR PNG BILL AND NEED COLD WEATHER PROTECTION FROM YOUR UTILITIES BEING SHUTOFF. YOU MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE CITY OF PERHAM/PERHAM NATURAL GAS IMMEDIATELY. YOU MUST ALSO SUBMIT PROOF OF INCOME (MOST CURRENT YEAR TAX FORM 1040) WITH THIS FORM.** Minnesota Public Utilities Commission cold Weather Rule provides that from October 1 through April 30, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if you enter into, and keep current with, a mutual agreement.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Account Number (from your utility bill) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_ Total Annual Household Income \_\_\_\_\_

Source of Income (check all that apply) Employment \_\_\_\_\_ General Assistance \_\_\_\_\_ Disability/Social Security/Pension \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_ Please Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Persons in Household (including yourself) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if any apply Elderly (over 65) Person in Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Emergency \_\_\_\_\_ Disabled Person in Residence \_\_\_\_\_

I am applying for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Inability to Pay (see brochure)

\_\_\_\_\_ Request for 10% Payment Plan  
(You can pay at least 10% of your monthly income or the full amount of your current bill, whichever is less in the cold weather months. This amount would not include any arrears.)

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Third Party Notification

If you have been issued a notice of disconnection, you may want to alert a third party (friend, relative, church group, or community agency) that a disconnection notice has been issued to you. The third party will not be responsible to pay your bill. The third party does have the right to contact PNG and provide information or work out a payment agreement.

If you want a third party to be notified of the potential disconnection, please complete the following and return it to PNG.

Customer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Service Address \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (from utility bill) \_\_\_\_\_

The City of Perham/PNG has my permission to provide information to and accept information from the party named below. The City of Perham/PNG will make every effort to send a copy of the Notice of Disconnection to the party specified. The customer making the request understand that the City of Perham assumes no liability for failure of the third party to receive or act upon said notice.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Third Party to be Notified \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Third Party Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*This request will not be accepted without third party's signature!

# Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

## Notice of Residential Customer Rights & Responsibilities



125 2nd Ave NE  
PO Box 130  
Perham, MN 56573  
Toll Free (877) 864-7963  
[www.cityofperham.com](http://www.cityofperham.com)

# Minnesota Cold Weather Rule

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has issued a Cold Weather Rule (Statutes 216B.096, 216B.097 & 216B.098) which provides that from October 1 through April 30, a utility cannot disconnect a residential utility customer for nonpayment if the disconnection would affect their primary heat source and if a customer has demonstrated an inability to pay on forms provided by the utility company, and who made reasonable timely payment to the utility under a payment plan that considers the financial resources of the household.

This notice is to tell you about your rights and responsibilities under the Cold Weather Rule. These rights and responsibilities are designed to help you with winter utility bills. You must act **promptly!** If you choose not to assert your rights or choose not to enter into a mutually acceptable payment schedule, **your service may be disconnected.**

**The Cold Weather Rule provides you with these options:**

**The right** to declare your Inability to Pay your utility bill in writing on forms provided by Perham Natural Gas (PNG). If you do so, service affecting your primary heat source cannot be disconnected for nonpayment of your bill, if you enter into a payment schedule with the utility.

**The responsibility**, if you choose to declare Inability to Pay, to complete an "Inability to Pay" form and return it to PNG. Upon mailing this form, you must also contact PNG to arrange a payment plan.

**The right** to a mutually acceptable payment schedule with PNG. This payment schedule will cover your existing amount due plus the estimated usage during the payment schedule period. If you are able to pay but still wish to enter into a payment schedule, contact PNG immediately to arrange a schedule.

**The responsibility** of making payments as agreed or promptly notifying PNG why you cannot keep the agreement. You may then request that the original payment schedule be changed. Any change is initially subject to PNG approval.

**The right** to appeal. The customer has the right to appeal a notice of involuntary disconnection. PNG will not disconnect the customer until the appeal is resolved.

If you need help paying your natural gas bills, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. To find out if you qualify and how to apply, contact the organizations listed here.

**Detroit Lakes Mahube/OTWA  
Community Action Partnership  
Energy Assistance**  
1125 West River Road  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501  
218-847-1385 or 888-458-1385

**Wadena Mahube/OTWA Energy Assistance**  
311 Jefferson St S  
Wadena, MN 56482  
218-632-3600 or 888-458-1385

**Salvation Army Heatshare**  
800-842-7279

**First Call for Help — Dial 211**

## Energy Conservation Tips

- \* Replace or clean your furnace filters monthly.
- \* Don't block heating vents, radiators, or registers with furniture or clutter. Keep them clean.
- \* Lower the setting of your hot water heater to 120°F.
- \* Open shades during winter days for passive solar heat and close them at night.
- \* In the summer use shades to block out direct sunlight during the day.
- \* In the winter lower your thermostat in the evening while you sleep.
- \* Wash your laundry in cold or warm water rather than hot.
- \* PNG is offering free energy audits. Applications are available at the PNG office.