

SUMMARY: This rule establishes the requirements for net energy billing.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

§ 1 PURPOSE 4

§ 2 DEFINITIONS 4

§ 3 NET ENERGY BILLING REQUIREMENTS 6

 A. Customer Qualification 6

 B. Contact Person 6

 1. Single Customer Facilities 6

 2. Shared financial interest customer facilities 6

 3. Timeframes 6

 4. Record Maintenance 7

 C. Shared Financial Interest Provisions 7

 1. Transfer 7

 2. Shared financial interest customer classes 7

 3. Competitive Electricity Provider 7

 4. Consumer-owned Utility Exemption 7

 D. Application 7

 1. Customer identities 7

 2. Financial interest 7

 3. Contact information 7

 4. Accounts 8

 5. Allocation specification 8

6.	Facility	8
7.	Affidavit.....	8
E.	Eligible Facilities	8
F.	Allocation Methodology	8
G.	Micro Combined Heat and Power Systems	8
H.	Service Territory	8
I.	Number of Accounts	8
J.	Net Energy Billing – Kilowatt-Hour Credits Requirements	9
1.	Excess Generation.....	9
2.	Excess Usage	9
3.	Unused Credits.....	9
4.	Non-usage Charges	9
5.	Billing	9
6.	Generation Providers	9
7.	Treatment of Facility Output	9
K.	Net Energy Billing-Tariff Rate Requirements	10
1.	Bill Credit	10
2.	Unused Credits.....	10
3.	Billing	10
4.	Establishment of Tariff Rate.....	10
5.	Registration and Treatment of Facility Output	10
6.	Renewable Energy Credits.....	10
7.	Cost and Benefit Allocation.....	11
L.	Additional Meters	11
M.	Interconnection Requirements	11

- N. Standard Contract and Application..... 11
- O. Dispute Resolution..... 11
- P. Reporting and Commission Review 11
 - 1. Commission Review 11
 - 2. Quarterly Report 12
- § 4 CONSUMER PROTECTIONS 12**
 - A. Applicability 12
 - B. Trade Practices..... 12
 - C. Registration..... 12
 - D. Financial Security 12
 - E. Standard Disclosures..... 13
 - F. Sanctions..... 13
 - 1. Participation in Net Energy Billing 13
 - 2. Cease and Desist Orders 13
 - 3. Restitution..... 13
 - 4. Other 14
 - 5. Administrative Penalties 14
 - 6. Waiver..... 14
- § 5 WAIVER OR EXEMPTION.....14**

§ 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Chapter is to implement the State's policy to encourage electricity generation from renewable resources through the adoption of requirements and standards for customer net energy billing.

§ 2 DEFINITIONS

- A. **Commercial or Institutional Customer.** "Commercial or institutional customer" means a nonresidential customer of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility in Maine.
- B. **Competitive Electricity Provider.** "Competitive electricity provider" means a supplier, marketer, broker, aggregator, or any other entity selling electricity supply that is not standard offer service to the public at retail in Maine.
- C. **Consumer-owned Transmission and Distribution Utility.** "Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility" has the same meaning as specified in Title 35-A, section 3201(6).
- D. **Customer.** "Customer" means a person or an entity that takes electricity service through a transmission and distribution utility in Maine.
- E. **Discrete Electric Generation Facility.** "Discrete electric generating facility" means a facility that is not co-located with or otherwise in geographic proximity to (i) another eligible facility or (ii) a distributed generation resource as defined in Chapter 312 of the Commission's rules in which there is a common financial or other interest that is contrary to the purpose of Title 35-A, sections 3209-A, 3209-B, chapter 34-C.
- F. **Effective Transmission and Distribution rate.** "Effective transmission and distribution rate" for a rate class means a rate per kilowatt-hour calculated as the sum of (a) all transmission and distribution revenue collected from customers in the rate class over a given period of time divided by the total kilowatt-hour usage of customers in that rate class over the same period of time.
- G. **Eligible Facility.** "Eligible facility" means a discrete electric generating facility that uses a renewable fuel or technology as specified in Title 35-A, section 3210(2)(B-3) and is located in the service territory of a transmission and distribution utility in Maine.
- H. **Financial Interest.** "Financial interest" means, with respect to an eligible facility, facility ownership or shared ownership, a lease agreement, a power purchase agreement, or other arrangements sufficient to represent a financial interest in an eligible facility.
- I. **Investor-owned transmission and distribution utility.** "Investor-owned transmission and distribution utility" has the same meaning as in Title 35-A, section 3104, subsection 1, paragraph A.
- J. **ISO-NE.** "ISO-NE" means the Independent System Operator of the New England bulk power system.

- K. **Micro-Combined Heat and Power System.** “Micro-Combined Heat and Power System” means a system that:
1. Produces heat and electricity from one fuel input, without restriction to specific fuel or generating technology;
 2. Has an electric generating capacity rating of at least one kilowatt and not more than 30 kilowatts and a fuel system efficiency of not less than 80% in the production of heat and electricity or has an electric generating capacity of at least 31 kilowatts and not more than 660 kilowatts and a fuel system efficiency of not less than 65% in the production of heat and electricity;
 3. May work in combination with supplemental or parallel conventional heating systems;
 4. Is manufactured, installed and operated in accordance with applicable government and industry standards; and
 5. Is connected to the electric grid and operated in conjunction with the facilities of a transmission and distribution utility.
- L. **Net Energy.** "Net energy" is the difference between the kilowatt-hours consumed by a customer or shared financial interest customers and the kilowatt-hours generated by the customer's or shared financial interest customers' eligible facility over a billing period.
- M. **Net Energy Billing – Kilowatt-Hour Credit.** “Net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credit” is a billing and metering practice under which a customer or shared financial interest customers are billed on the basis of net energy taking into account unused kilowatt-hour credits from the previous billing period, subject to the provisions of this Chapter.
- N. **Net Energy Billing – Tariff Rate.** "Net energy billing-tariff rate" is a billing and metering practice under which a customer or shared financial interest customers receive dollar-valued bill credits calculated and applied in accordance with Section 3(K) of this Chapter.
- O. **NMISA.** “NMISA” means the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator of the electricity market in northern Maine.
- P. **Project Sponsor.** "Project sponsor" means an entity or its successor or assignee that develops, owns, manages, operates, or is otherwise the responsible entity for a shared financial interest eligible facility.
- Q. **Renewable Energy Credit.** "Renewable energy credit" means a credit or certificate that represents renewable attributes of electric power that may be traded separately from the energy commodity.
- R. **Shared financial Interest.** “Shared financial interest” means a financial interest in an eligible facility that is shared among a group of customers.
- S. **Shared Financial Interest Customers.** “Shared financial interest customers” mean customers that have a financial interest in an eligible facility.
- T. **Shared Financial Interest Facility.** “Shared financial interest facility” means an eligible facility in which more than one customer has shared financial interest.

- U. **Standard Offer Provider.** "Standard offer provider" means a provider of standard offer service chosen pursuant to Chapter 301 of the Commission's rules.
- V. **Tariff Rate.** "Tariff rate" means the standard offer service rate established under Title 35-A, section 3212 that is applicable to the net energy billing-tariff rate customer receiving the bill credit plus 75% of the effective transmission and distribution rate for the rate class that includes the smallest commercial customers of the customer's investor-owned transmission and distribution utility.
- W. **Transmission and Distribution Utility.** "Transmission and distribution utility" has the same meaning as specified in Title 35-A, section 102(20-B).

§ 3 NET ENERGY BILLING REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Customer Qualification.** Any customer of a transmission and distribution utility that has a financial interest or a shared financial interest in an eligible facility may elect net energy billing.
- B. **Contact Person**
 - 1. **Single customer facilities.** A single customer participating in net energy billing, or the customer's designee, shall be the contact person responsible for all communications with the transmission and distribution utility regarding the net energy billing arrangement. The contact person shall be responsible for requesting, executing, and complying with the provisions of a net energy billing agreement. In the event that the customer designates more than one applicable meter or accounts to receive credits from its eligible facility, the contact person shall inform the transmission and distribution utility of the allocation of net energy or bill credits among that customer's meters and accounts subject to net energy billing. The contact person shall promptly inform the transmission and distribution utility of any needed changes to the net energy billing agreement, including changes to the allocation of net energy or bill credits among meters or accounts subject to net energy billing.
 - 2. **Shared financial interest customer facilities.** A project sponsor or the project sponsor's designee shall be the contact person responsible for all communications with the transmission and distribution utility regarding the net energy billing agreement. The contact person shall be responsible for requesting, executing, and complying with the provisions of a net billing agreement and shall inform the transmission and distribution utility of the allocation of net energy or bill credits among the meters and accounts of the participating shared financial interest customers. The contact person shall promptly inform the transmission and distribution utility of any changes to the financial interests or arrangements of the shared financial interest customers, including any changes in the meters or accounts of participating customers or the allocation of interest shares among meters or accounts.
 - 3. **Timeframes.** The specific timeframes for the exchange of information between the contact person and the transmission and distribution utility and the effective date of any related changes shall be contained in the applicable net energy billing agreement.

4. **Record maintenance.** The transmission and distribution utility and the contact person shall maintain all records related to the net energy billing agreement for the term of the agreement.

C. **Shared Financial Interest Provisions**

1. **Transfer.** Any person or entity may transfer or assign a shared financial interest to the associated project sponsor or to any person or entity eligible to participate in the shared financial interest facility. A project sponsor must provide a process for assignment or transfer of shared financial interests among participating customers or entities. A project sponsor may not impose transfer fees on a person or entity that moves to a different location within the same utility service territory.
2. **Shared financial interest customer classes.** A shared financial interest net energy billing – kilowatt-hour credit arrangement may include both residential and non-residential customers. A shared financial interest net energy billing-tariff rate arrangement may only include commercial and institutional customers. A single shared financial interest net energy billing arrangement may not include both net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credit customers and net energy billing-tariff rate customers, unless allowed by the applicable market rules
3. **Competitive Electricity Provider.** A project sponsor or its representative or agent that participates in a shared financial interest net energy billing arrangement pursuant to this section shall not be considered a competitive electricity provider under Title 35-A, chapter 32.
4. **Consumer-owned Utility Exemption.** Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities are not required to provide shared financial interest net energy billing arrangements pursuant to this section. Consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities may elect to provide shared financial interest ownership net energy billing arrangements in accordance with this Section.

- D **Application.** The contact person must submit to the transmission and distribution utility an application for a net energy billing agreement that contains the information specified in this subsection and other information that the transmission and distribution may reasonably require.

1. **Customer identities.** The names, addresses, telephone numbers and account numbers for all participating customers.
2. **Financial interest.** Documentation that the shared financial interest customers have a valid financial interest in the shared financial interest facility as required by this Chapter.
3. **Contact information.** The name, mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact person.

4. **Accounts.** A designation of the meters and accounts that will be subject to the net energy billing agreement.
 5. **Allocation specification.** A designation of the share of the output of the eligible facility to be allocated between and among meters or accounts. The allocation must be consistent with the provisions of this Section 3(F) of this Chapter.
 6. **Facility.** A description of the eligible facility, including the facility's location, capacity, and fuel type or generating technology.
 7. **Affidavit.** The application required under this subsection shall be accompanied by an affidavit attesting to the truth of the information provided.
- E. **Eligible Facilities.** An eligible facility must be a discrete generating facility that is less than 5 megawatts, except that, if a municipality is a customer participating in a net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credit arrangement, the nameplate capacity of a distributed generation resource located in that municipality that may be used for the net energy billing may be 5 megawatts or more, as long as less than 5 megawatts of metered electricity from the resource is used for net energy billing. . An eligible facility located in a service territory of a consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility must have an installed capacity of 100 kW or less unless the consumer-owned transmission and distribution utility elects to allow facilities with an installed capacity of up to less than 5 MW
- F. **Allocation Methodology.** For net energy billing agreements that include multiple meters or accounts, kilowatt-hours or bill credits may be allocated as follows; 1) a cascading allocation in which kilowatt-hours or bill credits are allocated in the priority order specified in the application; 2) a fixed percentage allocation in which kilowatt-hours or bill credits are allocated on a fixed percentage as specified in the application; or 3) any other allocation methodology that can be reasonably accommodated by the transmission and distribution utility.
- G. **Micro Combined Heat and Power Systems.** Micro combined heat and power systems that have a net energy arrangement on the effective date of this Chapter may continue net energy billing under that agreement for a period of twenty years.
- H. **Service Territory.** The eligible facility and the customer accounts subject to net energy billing must be located within a service territory of a single transmission and distribution utility.
- I. **Number of Accounts.** Customers or shared financial customers of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility may designate any number of accounts or meters to participate in net energy billing, except that the number of accounts or meters is limited to 10 for customers or shared financial interest customers located in a service territory administered by the Northern Maine System Administrator or any successor of the independent system administrator for northern Maine unless the Commission determines through an Order that the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility's billing system can accommodate more than 10 accounts or meters for the purpose of net energy billing. Consumer-owned utilities may limit the number of accounts or meters to ten.

- J. **Net Energy Billing – Kilowatt-Hour Credits Requirements.** A customer or shared financial interest customers qualifying under this section must be billed by transmission and distribution utilities on a net energy basis as follows:
1. **Excess Generation.** If the electricity generated during the billing period by the eligible facility plus any kilowatt-hour credits from prior billing periods exceed the customer's or the shared financial interest customers' kilowatt-hour usage during the billing period, the excess shall be applied to the customer's bill or the shared financial interest customers' bills for the following billing period as a reduction in the customer's kilowatt-hour usage.
 2. **Excess Usage.** If the customer's or the shared financial interest customers' kilowatt-hour usage exceeds the electricity generated by the eligible facility during the billing period plus any kilowatt-hour credits pursuant to subparagraph 1, the customer or the shared financial interest customers shall be billed for the excess kilowatt-hour usage at the applicable retail rate for electricity service.
 3. **Unused Credits.** A customer or shared financial interest customers may accumulate unused kilowatt-hour credits and apply them against kilowatt-hour usage over a 12-month rolling period. At the end of each 12-month rolling period, any accumulated unused kilowatt-hour credits shall be eliminated and may not be applied against any future kilowatt-hour usage. The customer or the shared financial interest customers will receive no compensation for unused kilowatt-hour credits.
 4. **Non-usage Charges.** Net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credits only applies to kilowatt-hour usage charges. Net energy billing customers or the shared ownership customers are responsible for all other charges applicable to the customer's rate class and recovered either through fixed amounts or over units other than kilowatt-hours.
 5. **Billing.** The transmission and distribution utility may place net energy billing accounts on the same billing cycle. The transmission and distribution utility shall allocate the generation output during the billing period and any kilowatt-hour credits from prior billing periods between and among the net energy billing accounts based on the allocation methodology specified pursuant to Section 3(D)(5) of this Chapter.
 6. **Generation Providers.** Customers or the shared financial interest customers that elect net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credits may obtain generation service from any competitive electricity provider that agrees to provide service on a net energy basis. If the customer or the shared financial interest customers receives standard offer service, the standard offer provider shall provide service on a net energy basis
 7. **Treatment of Facility Output.** The transmission and distribution utility shall apply the facility output of the eligible facility against supplier load obligations or, as applicable, to otherwise maximize the value of the output. The respective obligations of the transmission and distribution utilities, project sponsors and NEB customers shall be contained in the standard net energy billing agreement.

- K. **Net Energy Billing-Tariff Rate Requirements.** A commercial or institutional customer or commercial or institutional shared financial interest customers qualifying under this section must receive a bill credit as follows:
1. **Bill Credit.** Commercial or institutional customers shall receive a bill credit equal to the tariff rate multiplied by the customer's share of the facility output during the applicable period. The bill credit shall apply against the total amount of the bill issued to the customer by the transmission and distribution utility. The bill credit may not result in a negative customer bill.
 2. **Unused Credits.** Commercial or institutional customers may accumulate unused bill credits and apply them against their bill over a 12-month rolling period. At the end of each 12-month rolling period, any accumulated unused bill credits shall be eliminated and may not be applied against any future bill. The customer will receive no compensation for unused bill credits.
 3. **Billing.** The transmission and distribution utility may place net energy billing-tariff rate accounts on the same billing cycle. The transmission and distribution utility shall allocate the generation output during the billing period and any bill credits from prior billing periods between and among net energy billing accounts based on the allocation methodology specified by customers pursuant to and as required by Section 3(F) of this Chapter.
 4. **Establishment of Tariff Rate.** The Commission shall establish the initial tariff rates by December 1, 2019 and subsequent tariff rates prior to January 1 of each year. The effective transmission and distribution rate shall be established for a 12-month period. In the event that the applicable standard offer rate varies by month, the standard offer rate for purposes of the tariff rate will be a single rate based on the average over the twelve-month period. In the event that the applicable standard offer rate is set based on an index or otherwise unknown, the standard offer rate for purposes of the tariff rate will be a single rate based on the average rate over the prior twelve-month period. The Commission delegates to the Director of Electric and Gas Industries the authority to establish the tariff rate.
 5. **Registration and Treatment of Facility Output.** The commercial or institutional customer, or project sponsor, or a representative or agent must, if required by the market rules, register the eligible facility in the ISO-NE or NMISA market, as applicable, and provide for and pay the costs of required meters and associated equipment. The project sponsor, or the transmission and distribution utility, as designated by the net energy billing agreement, shall use commercially reasonable efforts to monetize the value of the energy, capacity, and all other market products relating to the facility output in a manner that maximizes that the value of the output of the resource to ratepayers. The respective obligations of the project sponsor and transmission and distribution utility in this regard shall be established by the net energy billing agreement.
 6. **Renewable Energy Credits.** Renewable energy credits shall not be transferred to the transmission and distribution utility.

7. **Cost and Benefit Allocation.** The costs and benefits incurred or realized by the investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall be reviewed by the Commission on an annual basis for inclusion in the utility's stranded cost rates. The process established by the Commission shall be consistent with the allocation of costs and benefits specified in Title 35-A, section 3210-F. Eligible costs and benefits include: incremental administrative costs, payments or bill credits, and revenue from the monetization of the output of the eligible facility.
- L. **Additional Meters.** Nothing in this section shall prohibit a utility from installing additional meters to record purchases and sales separately, provided, however, that unless requested by the customer or shared financial interest customers or required by the allocation methodology contained in Section 3(F) of this Chapter, no customer or the shared financial interest customers shall be charged for the cost of the additional meters or other necessary equipment. A customer or shared financial interest customer may request that additional meters be installed if required by the allocation methodology designated by the customer or shared ownership customers. The transmission and distribution utility shall maintain Terms and Conditions that set forth the requirements and charges associated with this metering.
- M. **Interconnection Requirements.** A customer or project sponsor that elects net energy billing must comply with all interconnection, safety and reliability requirements of the transmission and distribution utility applicable to the eligible facility.
- N. **Standard Contract and Application.** Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall develop a separate standard contract and application form for both net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credits and net energy billing-tariff rate consistent with the provisions of this Chapter. The standard contracts shall allow project sponsors or individual customers to choose a contract with a term length of up to twenty years. The standard contract shall include a provision that obligates the parties to negotiate in good faith to revise the contract terms if there is a change in statute or rule that materially alters any right or obligation of a contracting party. Each investor-owned transmission and distribution utility shall submit draft standard contracts and application forms for Commission approval. The submission of the draft standard contracts and application forms shall occur by December 15, 2019. The Commission may approve deviations from the standard contracts. The Commission delegates to the Director of Electric and Gas Industries the authority to approve the standard contracts and application forms, and any deviation from the standard contracts or application forms.
- O. **Dispute Resolution.** A transmission and distribution utility, a customer, or a project sponsor may dispute any matter governed by this Chapter by filing a Notice of Dispute with the Commission. If a transmission and distribution utility is disputing any aspect of an application for a net energy billing agreement, it must file a Notice of Dispute within 21 days of the submission of the application. A transmission and distribution utility, a customer or a project sponsor must engage in good faith efforts to resolve the dispute before a Notice of Dispute is filed. The Commission or the Consumer Assistance and Safety Division shall resolve disputes filed pursuant to this provision.
- P. **Reporting and Commission Review.**
 1. **Commission Review.** A transmission and distribution utility shall notify the Commission if the cumulative capacity of generating facilities subject to the

provisions of this Chapter reaches ten percent of its peak demand. Upon such notification or by September 19, 2022, the Commission will initiate a review this Chapter to consider the effectiveness of net energy billing in achieving State policy goals and providing benefits to ratepayers. Upon the conclusion of the review, the Commission shall submit a report to the Legislature.

2. **Quarterly Report.** On the 15th day following each calendar quarter, or otherwise upon request from the Commission, investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities shall file with the Commission a net energy billing report. The net energy billing report shall, at a minimum, include: (1) a list of all net energy billing agreements in the transmission and distribution utility's service territory; (2) the capacity, energy output and fuel type or generating technology of each eligible facility; (3) the number of accounts or meters associated with each net energy billing arrangement; (4) an estimate of (i) the actual revenue loss from net energy billing-kilowatt-hour credit arrangements and (ii) the cost of bill credit amounts from net energy billing-tariff rate arrangements; and other costs incurred to implement the requirements of this Chapter including, but not limited to, billing system upgrades and administrative costs.

§ 4 CONSUMER PROTECTIONS

- A. **Applicability.** A project sponsor, or a representative or agent of the project sponsor and any entity that markets a financial interest to residential or small commercial customers shall comply with provisions of this section. Project sponsors are responsible for violations of the provisions of this section by representatives or agents acting on their behalf.
- B. **Trade Practices.** Individuals or entities subject to this section must comply with the provisions of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act, Title 5, chapter 10 and related consumer protection statutes. Any finding by an entity of competent jurisdiction that an individual or entity violated either the Maine or Federal Unfair Trade Practices Act is deemed to be a violation of this section.
- C. **Registration.** Individuals or entities subject to this section shall register with the Commission. The Commission shall adopt standard registration forms and specific filing requirements and delegates this task to the Director of Electric and Gas Industries.
- D. **Financial Security.** The Commission may establish a financial security requirement for individuals or entities subject to this section. Any such financial security shall be held by the transmission and distribution in whose service territory the eligible facility is located. Upon a finding that an individual or entity has violated provisions of this section, the Commission may direct that amounts from the financial security be distributed to (1) customers for a refund of security deposits or advanced payments; (2) to customers for restitution of amounts paid in error or charges assessed in violation of this Chapter; and (3) to the Commission for payment of administrative penalties or any other sanction pursuant to this Chapter or applicable statutes. Prior to establishing financial security requirements pursuant to this provision, the Commission will provide an opportunity for interested persons to comment on whether a financial security requirement should be established, the amount of any such financial security requirement, and the type of security that should be allowed.

- E. **Standard Disclosures.** Prior to the sale, resale or lease of a financial interest in the output of an eligible facility, individuals or entities subject to this section must provide a disclosure that, at a minimum, contains the following:
1. A good faith estimate of the annual kilowatt-hours to be received by the shared eligible generation resource based on the size of the subscriber's shared financial interest;
 2. A plain language explanation of the terms under which the kilowatt-hour or bill credit will be calculated;
 3. A plain language explanation of requirements relating to the disposition or transfer of a shared financial interest;
 4. A plain language explanation of the costs and benefits to the potential shared financial interest customer, based on the customer's current usage for the term of the term of the shared financial interest; and
 5. A plain language explanation of renewable attributes represented by renewable energy credits and the effect of selling the renewable attributes.

The Commission shall adopt by order standard disclosure forms to be used by individuals or entities subject to this section when marketing a shared financial interest in an eligible facility to customers. The Commission may approve modifications to the standard disclosure forms. The Commission delegates to the Director of Electric and Gas Industries the authority to adopt standard disclosure forms and modifications to the standard disclosure forms.

- F. **Sanctions.** Individuals or entities that violate the provisions of this section are subject to sanctions. Sanctions may be imposed following a hearing before the Commission in conformance Title 5 M.R.S., Chapter 375, subchapter IV (*Maine Administrative Procedure Act*) and Chapter 110 of the Commission's rules.
1. **Participation in Net Energy Billing.** The Commission may prohibit individuals or entities subject to this section from participating in net energy billing under this Chapter.
 2. **Cease and Desist Orders.** The Commission may issue a cease and desist order, if the Commission finds that any individuals or entity subject to this section has engaged or is engaging in any act or practice in violation of any law or rule administered or enforced by the Commission or any lawful order issued by the Commission. A cease and desist order is effective when issued unless the order specifies a later effective date or is stayed pursuant to Title 5, section 11004.
 3. **Restitution.** The Commission may order restitution for any party injured by a violation for which a penalty may be assessed pursuant to this subsection.
 4. **Other.** The Commission may impose any other sanction authorized by law that it determines appropriate taking into account the facts and circumstances that resulted in the violation.

5. **Administrative Penalties.** The Commission may impose administrative penalties pursuant to Title 35-A, Chapter 15 that it determines appropriate taking into account the facts and circumstances that resulted in the violation.
6. **Waiver.** The Commission may waive the imposition of sanctions upon a showing that the violation was immaterial, unintentional, or that the individual or entity acted in good faith to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements.

§ 5 WAIVER OR EXEMPTION

Upon the request of any person subject to this Chapter or upon its own motion, the Commission may, for good cause, waive any requirement of this Chapter that is not required by statute. The waiver may not be inconsistent with the purposes of this Chapter or Title 35-A. The Commission, the Director Electric and Gas Utility Industries, or the Presiding Officer assigned to a proceeding related to this Chapter may grant the waiver.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 35-A M.R.S.A. §§ 104, 111, 1301, 3203(9), 3209-A, 3210; Public Law 2019 ch. 16 section 2.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on December 15, 1998. It was filed with the Secretary of State on December 15, 1998 and became effective on December 20, 1998.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on June 10, 2009. It was filed with the Secretary of State on June 15, 2009 as filing 2009-249, and became effective on July 15, 2009.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on January 20, 2012. It was filed with the Secretary of State on January 24, 2012 as filing 2012-7, and became effective on January 29, 2012.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on March 22, 2017. It was filed with the Secretary of State on March 24, 2017 as filing 2017-051, and became effective on March 29, 2017.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on April 22, 2019. It was filed with the Secretary of State on April 22, 2019 as filing 2019-066 (Emergency), and became effective on April 22, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on August 7, 2019. It was filed with the Secretary of State on August 7, 2019, and became effective on August 12, 2019 (filing 2019-145).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This rule was approved as to form and legality by the Attorney General on December 7, 2019. It was filed with the Secretary of State on December 2, 2019 and became effective on December 7, 2019 (filing 2019-217).