

199—20.1(476) General information.

20.1(1) *Authorization of rules.* Iowa Code chapter 476 provides that the Iowa utilities commission shall establish all needful, just and reasonable rules, not inconsistent with law, to govern the exercise of its powers and duties, the practice and procedure before it, and to govern the form, content, and filing of reports, documents, and other papers necessary to carry out the provisions of this law.

a. Iowa Code chapter 478 provides that the Iowa utilities commission shall have power to make and enforce rules relating to the location, construction, operation, and maintenance of certain electrical transmission lines.

b. Electric utilities with fewer than 10,000 customers subject to commission regulation pursuant to Iowa Code section 476.1A are subject to the regulatory requirements set out in 199—Chapter 27 for municipal electric utilities and electric cooperatives.

20.1(2) *Application of rules.* These rules shall apply to any rate-regulated electric utility operating within the state of Iowa subject to Iowa Code chapter 476, and to the construction, operation, and maintenance of electric transmission lines to the extent provided in Iowa Code chapter 478, and shall supersede all tariffs on file with the commission that are in conflict with these rules.

a. These rules are intended to promote safe and adequate service to the public, to provide standards for uniform and reasonable practices by utilities, and to establish a basis for determining the reasonableness of such demands as may be made by the public upon the utilities.

b. The adoption of these rules shall in no way preclude the commission from altering or amending them pursuant to statute or from making such modifications with respect to their application as may be found necessary to meet exceptional conditions.

20.1(3) *Definitions.* The following words and terms, when used in these rules, shall have the meaning indicated below:

“Acid Rain Program” means the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides air pollution control program established pursuant to Title IV of the Act under 40 CFR Parts 72 through 78.

“Act” means the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. Section 7401, et seq, as amended on November 15, 1990.

“Affected unit” means a unit or source that is subject to any emission reduction requirement or limitation under the Acid Rain Program, the CAIR, the CSAPR, or the MATS or a unit or source that opts in under 40 CFR Part 74, dated April 4, 1995.

“Allowance” means an authorization, allocated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to emit sulfur dioxide (SO₂) under the Acid Rain Program or SO₂ and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) under the CAIR, and the CSAPR during or after a specified calendar year.

“Allowance futures contract” means an agreement between a futures exchange clearinghouse and a buyer or seller to buy or sell an allowance on a specified future date at a specified price.

“Capacity” means the instantaneous rate at which energy can be delivered, received, or transferred, measured in kilowatts (kW).

“Clean Air Interstate Rule” or *“CAIR”* means the requirements EPA published in the Federal Register (70 Fed. Reg. 25161) on May 12, 2005.

“Code of Federal Regulations” or *“CFR”* means the Code of Federal Regulations, which contains the general administrative rules adopted by federal departments and agencies, in effect as of July 16, 2025, unless a separate effective date is identified in a specific rule.

“Complaint” means a statement or question by anyone, whether a utility customer or not, alleging a wrong, grievance, injury, dissatisfaction, illegal action or procedure, dangerous condition or action, or utility obligation.

“Compliance plan” means the document submitted for an affected source to the EPA that specifies the methods by which each affected unit at the source will meet the applicable emissions limitation and emissions reduction requirements.

“Cross-State Air Pollution Rule” or *“CSAPR”* means the requirements established by the EPA in 40 CFR 97 Subparts AAAAA,BBBBB, CCCCC, and DDDDD as amended by 81 FR 13275 (March 14, 2016).

“*Customer*” means any person, firm, association, or corporation; any agency of the federal, state, or local government; or any legal entity responsible by law for payment for the electric service or heat from the electric utility.

“*Delinquent*” or “*delinquency*” means an account for which a service bill or service payment agreement has not been paid in full on or before the last day for timely payment.

“*Distribution line*” means any single or multiphase electric power line operating at nominal voltage in either of the following ranges: 2,000 to 26,000 volts between ungrounded conductors or 1,155 to 15,000 volts between grounded and ungrounded conductors, regardless of the functional service provided by the line.

“*Electric plant*” includes all real estate, fixtures, and property owned, controlled, operated, or managed in connection with or to facilitate production, generation, transmission, or distribution, in providing electric service or heat by an electric utility.

“*Electric service*” means furnishing to the public for compensation any electricity, heat, light, power, or energy.

“*Emission for emission trade*” is an exchange of one type of emission for another type of emission. For example, the exchange of SO₂ emission allowances for NO_x emission allowances.

“*Energy*” means electric energy measured in kilowatt hours (kWh).

“*Master meter*” means a single meter used in determining the amount of electricity provided to a multitenant building or multiple buildings.

“*Mercury and Air Toxics Standards*” or “*MATS*” means the requirements established by the EPA in 40 CFR Parts 60 and 63 regarding limits of power plant emissions of toxic air pollutants (February 16, 2012).

“*Meter*” means, unless otherwise qualified, a device that measures and registers the integral of an electrical quantity with respect to time.

“*Power*” means electric power measured in kW.

“*Price hedging*” means using futures contracts or options to guard against unfavorable price changes.

“*Rate-regulated utility*” means any utility, as defined in subrule 20.1(3), that is subject to rate regulation under Iowa Code chapter 476.

“*Secondary line*” means any single or multiphase electric power line operating at nominal voltage less than either 2,000 volts between ungrounded conductors or 1,155 volts between grounded and ungrounded conductors, regardless of the functional service provided by the line.

“*Service limitation*” means the establishment of a limit on the amount of power that may be consumed by a residential customer through the installation of a service limiter on the customer’s meter.

“*Service limiter*” or “*service limitation device*” means a device that limits a residential customer’s power consumption to 3,600 watts (or some higher level of usage approved by the commission) and that resets itself automatically, or can be reset manually by the customer, and may also be reset remotely by the utility at all times.

“*Speculation*” means using futures contracts or options to profit from expectations of future price changes.

“*Tariff*” means the entire body of rates, tolls, rentals, charges, classifications, rules, procedures, policies, etc., adopted and filed with the commission by an electric utility in fulfilling its role of furnishing service.

“*Timely payment*” means a payment on a customer’s account made on or before the date shown on a current bill for service, or on a form, which records an agreement between the customer and a utility for a series of partial payments to settle a delinquent account, as the date that determines application of a late payment charge to the current bill or future collection efforts.

“*Transmission line*” means any single or multiphase electric power line operating at nominal voltages at or in excess of either 69,000 volts between ungrounded conductors or 40,000 volts between grounded and ungrounded conductors, regardless of the functional service provided by the line.

“*Uniform system of accounts*” means the uniform system of accounts as prescribed by 199—Chapter 16.

“*Utility*” means any person, partnership, business association, or corporation, domestic or foreign, owning or operating any facilities for providing electric service or heat to the public for compensation.

“Vintage trade” means an exchange of one vintage of allowances for another vintage of allowances with the difference in value between vintages being cash or additional allowances.

“Weighted average unit cost of inventoried allowances” equals the dollars in inventory at the end of the month divided by the total allowances available for use at the end of the month.

20.1(4) Abbreviations. The following abbreviations, when used in these rules, have the following meanings:

ANSI—American National Standards Institute

DOE—Department of Energy

FERC—Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

NFPA—National Fire Protection Association

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 476.1, 476.1A, and 476.2.

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