

**UTILITIES DIVISION[199]**

**Notice of Intended Action**

**Proposing rulemaking related to reorganization  
and providing an opportunity for public comment**

The Utilities Board hereby proposes to rescind Chapter 32, “Reorganization,” Iowa Administrative Code, and to adopt a new chapter with the same title.

*Legal Authority for Rulemaking*

This rulemaking is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 476.76 and 476.77.

*State or Federal Law Implemented*

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 388.2A, 476.76 and 476.77.

*Purpose and Summary*

The Board commenced this rulemaking under the provisions of Executive Order 10 (January 10, 2023). This chapter is intended to ensure there is a methodology to the reorganization of a public utility and to provide clarification for interested persons as to what is expected to be filed when a reorganization occurs. The Board is proposing to rescind the existing Chapter 32 and promulgate a new version of Chapter 32 with the removal of unnecessary and unneeded language and the reduction of restrictive terms.

Prior to submission of the Notice of Intended Action, the Board held a technical conference with stakeholders, which included a discussion regarding the proposed Chapter 32. The technical conference was attended by the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice; Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL); ITC Midwest, LLC; Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Black Hills); and Iowa-American Water Company (Iowa-American). The Board also accepted written comments, which were filed by OCA, IPL, and MidAmerican Energy Company.

Based on the written and oral comments received, the Board modified proposed Chapter 32 to produce the version of the chapter in this Notice.

The Board issued an order on March 1, 2024, commencing this rulemaking. The order is available on the Board’s electronic filing system, [efs.iowa.gov](https://efs.iowa.gov), under RMU-2023-0032.

*Fiscal Impact*

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

*Jobs Impact*

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

*Waivers*

No waiver provision is included in the proposed amendments because the Board has a general waiver provision in rule 199—1.3(17A,474,476) that provides procedures for requesting a waiver of the rules in Chapter 32.

*Public Comment*

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this proposed rulemaking. Written comments in response to this rulemaking must be received by the Board no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 8, 2024. Comments should be directed to:

IT Support  
Iowa Utilities Board  
Phone: 515.725.7300  
Email: [ITSupport@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:ITSupport@iub.iowa.gov)

*Public Hearing*

Public hearings at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

April 23, 2024 9 to 10 a.m.	Board Hearing Room 1375 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa
May 8, 2024 9 to 10 a.m.	Board Hearing Room 1375 East Court Avenue Des Moines, Iowa

Persons who wish to make oral comments at a public hearing may be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rulemaking.

Any persons who intend to attend a public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Board and advise of specific needs.

*Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee*

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rulemaking action is proposed:

ITEM 1. Rescind 199—Chapter 32 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 32  
REORGANIZATION

**199—32.1(476) Applicability and definition of terms.**

**32.1(1)** This chapter applies to any person who intends to acquire, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose directly or indirectly of the whole or any substantial part of a public utility's assets; or purchase, acquire, sell, or otherwise dispose of the controlling capital stock of any public utility, either directly or indirectly. For utilities with more than one regulated line of business, the utility revenue limit shall be calculated using the revenue of the specific line of utility business involved in the transaction, not the combined utility revenues.

**32.1(2)** This chapter does not apply to transfers or removals of a public utility's assets that are made specifically pursuant to a board deregulation order, as long as those transfers or removals occur within 12 months of the board's approval of an accounting separation plan, or to transactions where board approval is otherwise required in a contested case proceeding.

**199—32.2(476) Substantial part of a public utility's assets.**

**32.2(1)** No public utility shall acquire or lease assets, directly or indirectly, with a value in excess of 3 percent of the utility's Iowa jurisdictional utility revenue during the immediately preceding calendar year or \$5 million, whichever is greater, without prior approval from the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 476.77. For purposes of this subrule and subrule 32.2(2), "value" means the greater of market value or book value.

**32.2(2)** No public utility shall sell or otherwise dispose of assets, directly or indirectly, with a value in excess of 3 percent of the utility's Iowa jurisdictional utility revenue during the immediately preceding calendar year or \$5 million, whichever is greater, without prior approval from the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 476.77. However, for utilities for which the 3 percent limit is greater than \$5 million, if the assets being sold or otherwise disposed of are used in the generation or delivery of utility services to Iowa consumers, an application or a waiver is required if the assets have a value in excess of \$10 million.

**32.2(3)** Board approval of the following types of transactions is not necessary: fuel purchases, energy and capacity purchases and sales, gas purchases, sale of accounts receivables, sale of bonds, claim and litigation payments, tax payments and credit transfers, regulatory fees and assessments, insurance premiums, payroll, stock dividends, financings, routine financial transactions, operation and maintenance expense, construction expense, or similar transactions that occur in the ordinary course of business. Any transaction involving more than 10 percent of a public utility's gross utility assets less depreciation, or any transaction outside the ordinary course of business, is not exempt under this subrule.

**199—32.3(476) Proposal for reorganization—filing requirements.** Any person who intends to accomplish a reorganization shall file supporting testimony and evidence with its proposal for reorganization, including but not limited to the following information:

**32.3(1)** General information.

*a.* A statement of the purposes of the reorganization and a description of the events that led to the reorganization.

*b.* An analysis of the alternatives to the proposed reorganization that were considered and their impact on rates and services, if any.

**32.3(2)** Reorganization details.

*a.* Written accounting policies and procedures for the subsequent operation, including the type of system of accounts to be used.

*b.* The situs of the books and records of the public utility after reorganization and their availability to the board.

*c.* A description of the proposed accounting to be utilized in any transfer of assets necessary to accomplish reorganization.

*d.* The proposed method for:

(1) Accounting for and allocating officers' time between the public utility and any affiliates, and

(2) Compliance with the board's rules on affiliate transactions and relationships.

*e.* Copies of all contracts that directly relate to the reorganization and a summary of any unwritten contracts or arrangements verified by an officer of the operating company.

*f.* Before and after organizational charts for the affected public utility and affiliates, including staffing changes.

*g.* A statement of any proposed physical removal of assets from the board's jurisdiction to another jurisdiction or removal or transfer of assets from a regulated to a nonregulated environment.

**32.3(3)** Financial details.

*a.* An analysis of whether the affected public utility's ability to attract capital on reasonable terms, including the maintenance of a reasonable capital structure and corporate financial integrity, is impaired.

*b.* A description of the financing components of the proposed reorganization.

*c.* Information concerning the funding provided to any new entity.

*d.* Current and proposed reorganization balance sheets and capital structures.

*e.* Stockholder annual reports for two years preceding the year of filing for all affected companies.

*f.* Stockholder quarterly reports for the two quarters just prior to the date of the filing and any subsequent reports as they become available during the proceeding, for all affected companies.

*g.* The major credit rating agencies' reports for two years preceding the filing date of the merger and updates as they become available during the proceeding, for all affected companies.

*h.* Any proxy statement to the stockholders regarding the proposed reorganization. If such is not available at time of filing, a preliminary statement will be filed, followed by the final statement when available.

**32.3(4) Impact of reorganization.**

*a.* A cost-benefit analysis that describes the projected benefits and costs of reorganizing, including identification of source data. The benefits and costs should be quantified in terms of present value.

*b.* An analysis of the projected financial impact of the proposed reorganization on the ratepayers of the affected public utilities for the first five years after reorganization.

*c.* An analysis of the effect on the public interest. "Public interest" means the interest of the public at large, separate and distinct from the interest of the public utility's ratepayers. The analysis should include a discussion of the reorganization's impact on the economy of the state and the communities where the utility is located.

If more than one public utility is involved in a reorganization, an analysis shall be submitted for all public utilities involved.

**32.3(5) Effect on service and reliability.**

*a.* A report on quality of service and reliability levels of utility services for each of the five years prior to the year of filing, for all affected companies.

*b.* A detailed statement on how the proposed reorganized entity will maintain or enhance service and reliability, including any investment or operational plans that are available.

**32.3(6)** If any information required by these subrules is not applicable to the type of reorganization being proposed, the applicant shall state the reason(s) why the particular information is not applicable to the proposal.

**199—32.4(476) Insufficient filing.** The board may reject within 30 days any proposal for reorganization that does not contain sufficient information for the board to evaluate the proposal for reorganization. The board shall fully describe any deficiencies in a reorganization plan that is rejected.

**199—32.5(476) Procedural matters.** Because of statutory time limitations set forth in Iowa Code section 476.77(2), an expedited procedural schedule shall be utilized for proposals for reorganization. The board may order additional specific procedures as needed for the expedited hearing process.

**32.5(1)** Within 40 days after a proposal for reorganization and supporting testimony is filed, the consumer advocate and any intervenors may file any written testimony and exhibits. This will allow the board an opportunity to consider the testimony and exhibits prior to the 50-day deadline for issuing a notice of hearing.

**32.5(2)** Responses to data requests shall be made within five days from the date of service.

**32.5(3)** When a hearing on the proposed reorganization is scheduled, the applicant, consumer advocate, and any intervenors file a joint statement of the issues at least ten days prior to the date of hearing.

**199—32.6(388) Approval of appraiser for municipal utilities.** The procedures for requesting board approval of an appraiser are as follows:

**32.6(1) Making a request.** To request board approval of an appraiser to appraise a city utility, the governing body of the city utility shall file a request in the board's electronic filing system. The request shall contain the following information:

*a.* The name of the city and of the utility;

*b.* The type of utility service provided by the utility;

*c.* The total number of customers served by the utility and the number of customers served by class, if applicable;

- d. A general description of the assets owned by the utility; and
- e. The name and contact information for the city or utility.

**32.6(2)** *Consideration of request.* When a request for approval of an appraiser is received by the board, board staff reviews the request and provides the board with a recommendation or a list of appraisers for the board to consider approving. The board may delegate approval authority to the board chair.

**32.6(3)** *Notice of approved appraiser.* Within 30 calendar days following the city's or city utility's filing to request board approval of an appraiser, the board shall notify the city and governing body of the city utility of an approved appraiser. If the city and governing body of the city utility are unable to agree to terms with an approved appraiser, the city and governing body of the city utility may file a letter with the board requesting approval of another appraiser and identifying the reasons they are requesting the board to approve another appraiser.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 388.2A(2) "a"(1), 476.76, and 476.77.