



An Avangrid company

# Nonresidential Rights and Responsibilities

2024

This booklet, which we provide once each year, summarizes our service policies, energy supply choices and your rights under Public Service Commission (PSC) rules and the Home Energy Fair Practices Act (HEFPA) – Rules (Title 16 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations – Part 13) based on New York State Public Law. Please take time to read it, and keep it for future reference.

## Your nonresidential service

### Nonresidential customer

The characteristics of your electricity and/or natural gas service qualify you for nonresidential status.

### Selection of the most advantageous rate

It's your responsibility to select the most advantageous rate classification for your account. Upon request, we can review your energy use and help you determine which rate classification may be best for you. Our rate summaries and tariffs are available online at [rge.com](http://rge.com) or inside our walk-in offices.

### Nonresidential customers who do not have a demand meter

**(electricity):** An increase to over 3,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity **consumption** for two consecutive months may require that we install a demand meter. A portion of your bill will then be based on your peak energy use. There is no charge for installation of the meter; however, installation may require modifications to your service for which you will be responsible.

### Nonresidential customers who have a demand meter

**(electricity):** An increase to over 12 kilowatts (kW) of electricity **demand** may require a change in your service classification.

In either of the above cases, we will notify you of the change and the reason for it.

### Closing your account

If you want to close your account and have service turned off, contact us online at [rge.com/Moving](http://rge.com/Moving) or by phone and schedule service turn off in advance. Once we have final meter readings, our billing system will automatically discontinue your energy supply choice, including terminating your enrollment with a supplier other than RG&E (also known as an energy services company or ESCO). Contact your ESCO to determine if they have any fees for terminating your supply agreement.

### Access to the meter

It's important that we access our meter for readings (so that we can provide you with a bill based on actual energy use), and to perform inspections and maintenance for your safety. We make every effort to read the meter, but there are times when we have to estimate your electricity and/or natural gas use.

Smart meter upgrades will occur over the next several years. We appreciate your cooperation in providing access to the meter for your scheduled upgrade. Recurring fees will be applied to your account if we cannot access the meter for your required upgrade.

**For electricity customers with a demand meter**, if we are not able to obtain a meter reading, we must try again within

seven days. If we still are not able to obtain a reading, we will issue an estimated bill.

**If your bill includes demand charges**, we will send you a "no access" notice after we issue two consecutive estimated bills because we were not able to read the meter.

**If your bill does not include demand charges**, we will send you a "no access" notice after we issue four consecutive estimated bills because we were not able to read the meter.

**If your bill does not include demand charges and you read the meter or have a remote meter reading device**, we must have access to the meter once a year for a meter reading.

We will send you a notice requesting access on the next scheduled read date or by appointment. Should we not gain access and you receive a second notice, you or the person with access to the meter may be charged up to \$100. This charge will be added to each bill until we have access to the meter.

**If you receive a notice and you do not control access to the meter**, it is your responsibility to notify us of who does have access.

**If the next reading after an estimated bill shows that the estimated demand was lower than actual demand**, we may revise the estimate, in accordance with PSC rules, and bill you for the difference.

**If access arrangements cannot be made** and your service classification is eligible, you can provide us with a reading. For more information, visit [rge.com/ReadMyMeter](http://rge.com/ReadMyMeter).

**Indoor meters:** New York State Gas Safety Regulations require that we perform periodic safety inspections of indoor natural gas meters. The inspection includes both a survey for natural gas leakage and inspection for corrosion that could result in leakage. It's important that we access the meter to perform these inspections to ensure the highest level of public safety and verify the condition of our meter and service piping.

When your inside meter and service piping are due for inspection, we will attempt to contact you in multiple ways:

- An RG&E employee or authorized contractor may knock at your door to request access. If unsuccessful, they will leave an informational door hanger with instructions on how to schedule an inspection.
- A series of letters may also be sent with the same information. Electronic communications, including email, may also be used in an effort to inform you of the need for this inspection and how to schedule.

- Lastly, phone calls may also be made in an attempt to alert you to the need for access.

Please note that if we cannot gain access, you may be subject to a surcharge. If we still cannot gain access after the surcharge is assessed, the natural gas service will be terminated until we can gain access to inspect the indoor meter and piping.

## Billing and payment

### Billing

We issue a monthly bill based on an actual or estimated meter reading. Past energy use is the primary factor we consider when preparing an estimated bill.

Whenever we send a bill based on estimated energy use, it is clearly marked in the meter reading table. The procedure we use to estimate your bill is approved by the PSC.

If eligible for your service classification, and if you prefer, **you can provide us with a meter reading on the months we don't read your meter.** For a reminder when a reading is due, we offer a Customer Meter Reading Reminder service. To enroll, visit [rge.com/ReadMyMeter](http://rge.com/ReadMyMeter).

### Payment and billing service charges

These charges are the cost to produce and send you (electronically or on paper) a bill and process payments. Customers who use an energy supplier (also known as an energy services company or ESCO) other than RG&E will not be assessed this charge by RG&E if their ESCO supply charges appear on their RG&E bill. Payment and billing service charges appear in the Miscellaneous Charges section of the bill.

### Bill payment options

We have several free, convenient and easy ways to pay your bill:

- Use our Mobile App anytime, anywhere from any device. Download the app by searching RG&E in the App Store or get it on Google Play. Or text **APP** to **743898** and we'll send you a link to download the app.
- Receive and pay your bill online through our **eBill** service or through your own online billing provider.
- Use **AutoPay** (electronic funds transfer). With **AutoPay**, we'll automatically deduct your payment from your checking account on the due date indicated on page 1 of your bill. Sign up online or complete the form on the back of your bill payment.
- Make a one-time payment (and still receive paper bills) through your checking account or credit card online or by calling us at **800.295.7323**. There is no charge for this service.
- **Mail** your payment. See page 6 for our bill payment address.
- Use our **self-service kiosks** available inside our walk-in offices. They accept cash, credit cards and check transactions. Leave your payment in one of our drop boxes located outside our walk-in offices. For a complete list of our walk-in offices, please visit [rge.com](http://rge.com).
- Bring your payment to one of our approved **pay agents** (nearly 1,100 supermarkets or other businesses) and it will post to your account the next business day with no convenience fee. To find the pay agent nearest you, visit [rge.com](http://rge.com).
- Visit [rge.com/Payment-and-Billing-Options](http://rge.com/Payment-and-Billing-Options) to learn more about our bill payment options.

Return check fees apply for payments with insufficient funds and for payments with incorrect bank information.

**Payment due date:** Your payment is due when you receive your bill. Late payment charges are 1.5% a month (18% per year). If you pay by mail, online or at an authorized pay agent, you can avoid a late payment charge by having your payment received by RG&E by the date on the payment stub on page 1 of your bill.

If you have any questions regarding our bill payment options, call us at **888.755.8900**. If you are having trouble paying your bill, contact us. Together we may be able to work out a payment agreement. Specific information on payment agreements is included in this booklet on page 3.

**Budget billing:** If eligible for your service classification, you can spread your energy costs evenly over 12 months. While there are no cost savings, you'll know your payment amount in advance. We'll review your account periodically and if necessary, adjust your monthly payment based on recent usage and energy prices. Combine Budget Billing and **AutoPay** to spread your energy costs across 12 months and never miss a payment. For more information or to enroll, visit [rge.com](http://rge.com). Customers can be removed from Budget Billing if they are in arrears and from **AutoPay** if payments are not honored by their bank.

If you wish to be refunded any excess credit at the end of the Budget Billing year, instead of having the credit carry forward on your bill, please contact us at **800.743.2110**.

**Customers with a demand meter:** Your demand for electricity may increase to a considerably higher than normal level if all of your air conditioning, space heating and/or heavy production equipment turns on simultaneously after a power interruption. This increase in demand could potentially result in a higher electricity bill. Be aware that it is your responsibility to take the necessary steps after a power interruption to avoid this situation.

### Deposits

**New customers:** We may require new customers to pay a deposit and sign a written application when beginning service with us. The deposit must be paid in full before service will be provided.

**Existing customers:** We will require a deposit from an existing customer:

- Who has made a late payment on two or more occasions within the previous 12 months.
- Whose financial condition is such that the customer may default in the future.
- Who has been billed within the past 12 months for charges which resulted from tampering with metering equipment.

Existing customers may pay the deposit in three installments consisting of a 50% down payment and two monthly payments of the balance.

For electricity and/or natural gas customers whose usage peaks during the heating and/or cooling season, the deposit is twice the estimated average monthly bill during the heating and/or cooling seasons.

**Refunds/requests for additional deposit:** At the first anniversary of our receipt of a deposit, and at least every two years after that, we will review your billing history to determine if the deposit still covers two months' average energy use. If it exceeds two months' use by 25% or more, we will refund the

excess. If it falls short of two months' use by 25% or more, we may require an additional deposit.

**Return of deposits:** We will return a deposit no more than 30 calendar days after:

- The day your account is closed.
- You have paid all bills in full and on time for 36 consecutive months.

**Interest on deposits:** Your deposit will earn interest at a rate set by the PSC. Interest will be calculated from the day a deposit is received until it is applied as a credit to your account.

### Payment arrangements

**If you are having difficulty paying your RG&E bill, don't wait, please call us at 877.266.3492.** Together we can work on a solution, including a possible payment agreement.

A payment agreement can enable an eligible customer who is having trouble paying their RG&E bill to spread payment of the past-due amount over several months. It does not forgive any past-due amounts nor does it release a customer from the obligation to pay current and future bills on time.

**If you are eligible, we will provide a notice offering a payment agreement when we backbill** you for an underbilling which exceeds twice your average monthly use or \$100, whichever is greater.

**You may also be eligible for a payment agreement** based on such factors as past defaulted agreements, consumption amounts, and length of service. If eligible, the agreement would require a 30% down payment and consist of up to six payments. If a field visit is made, a 50% down payment may be required.

**Any one of the following circumstances makes a customer ineligible for a payment agreement:**

- The ability to pay at the time of the agreement or at any time during the term of the agreement.
- Owning any amount under a previous payment agreement.
- Failing to make timely payments under a payment agreement during the previous 12 months.
- Operating as a publicly-held company.
- Exceeding electricity and/or natural gas usage levels specified in PSC rules.
- Being a seasonal, short-term or temporary customer.
- Being an electricity customer who, during the previous 12 months, had a combined average monthly billed demand for all accounts in excess of 20 kW or who registered a single demand in excess of 40 kW.
- Being a natural gas customer who, during the previous 12 months, had a combined total consumption for all accounts in excess of 4,000 therms.

A payment agreement may require you to make a down payment of 30% of the past-due charges upon which the final termination notice is based or twice your average monthly bill, whichever is greater, plus the full amount of any past-due charges billed after the termination notice was issued.

If we come to your facility to terminate service and you are eligible for a payment agreement, we may require a down payment of 50% of the termination notice amount or four times your average monthly bill, whichever is greater, plus the full

amount of any past-due charges billed after the termination notice was issued. In either case, you will be required to pay the balance in monthly installments of up to the cost of your average monthly energy use or one-sixth of the balance, whichever is greater.

The specifics of a payment agreement may be changed if mutually agreed upon.

### Termination of service for nonpayment

The last thing we want to do is terminate your electricity and/or natural gas service. Before we terminate your service for nonpayment, we make every effort to help you find a way to pay your bill. We will refer you to agencies that may be able to assist you. If you are having difficulty paying your bill, please call us at **877.266.3492** to make arrangements.

Before we terminate your service for nonpayment, we will send you a final termination notice. We do not send a final termination notice until a bill is past due.

We may terminate service only between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. We will not terminate service on Saturday or Sunday, a public holiday, on a day when our offices or the PSC offices are closed, or after 3 p.m. on the day before any of those days, unless we have made personal contact to inform you that your service is about to be terminated.

If your service has been terminated and you cannot reach an agreement with our representative to reconnect service, you may ask to speak with a supervisor. If an agreement cannot be reached you may call the PSC Emergency Hotline at **800.342.3355**, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

### Turn off of service for unsafe conditions

We may turn off service any time we find a serious safety or technical problem. After the problem is corrected, we will turn service on as soon as possible.

### Authorization

You can designate someone (a relative, caretaker, business agent, etc.) to have access to your account information and contact us on your behalf. The authorized person will also be able to make decisions about your service and energy information. They would not be responsible for any costs incurred on your account. To designate an authorized person, contact us.

By accepting service from RG&E, you expressly consent to allow us or our representatives to contact you by phone (autodialed and automated voice call), email or text message regarding your utility service (e.g., planned or unplanned service outages, confirmation of service restoration, meter work or field work). You may opt out of these calls by calling **800.743.2110**, or by visiting **rgc.com/ContactUs**.

### Reconnection of service

We charge to reconnect service during and after normal business hours. Our fees are published at **rgc.com** in our tariffs.

**If your service has been terminated for nonpayment, we will reconnect it within 24 hours when either:**

- You have paid the amount due, or signed a payment agreement (if eligible) and made the required down payment.
- The PSC directs us to reconnect the service.

### The amount due may consist of:

- The full amount of arrears and/or a security deposit for which service was terminated.

- Any other past-due charges that were billed after the termination notice was issued.

## Landlords

**Shared meters:** By law, residential tenants are required to pay only for the electricity and/or natural gas they use. Sometimes a tenant's electricity or natural gas meter also registers electricity or natural gas used outside the tenant's dwelling. This is called a "shared meter." In those cases, tenants are only required to pay for the energy they use in their dwellings.

In situations where a shared meter exists, the landlord must either:

- If permitted by New York State's Shared Meter Law (Section 52 of the Public Service Law of New York State), enter into an agreement with the tenant to compensate the tenant for any energy the tenant did not use.
- Place the dwelling unit's electricity and/or natural gas account in the landlord's name.

If the landlord does not correct the situation or enter into an agreement with the tenant, when eligible, within 120 days of discovery of the situation, the landlord must become the customer of record per the New York State Shared Meter Law.

Upon written request from a prospective tenant, we will provide, at no cost, the total electricity and/or natural gas two-year billing history of the prospective residential rental premises. We will provide this information to the prospective landlord, or other authorized person, within ten days of receipt of the written request.

**Reduced tax rate:** As a landlord, if you think you may qualify for a reduced tax rate, please consult your tax advisor and mail the appropriate form to RG&E.

## Complaint handling procedure

Whether you write, contact us by phone or send an email to us, we will address your questions. If you feel our representative has not adequately addressed your concern, please ask to speak with a supervisor.

If your concern remains unresolved, you can:

- Write to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223.
- Visit the PSC website at [dps.ny.gov/Complaints](https://dps.ny.gov/Complaints).
- Call the PSC's Helpline at **800.342.3377**, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If your complaint involves an RG&E bill, you will not be asked to pay the disputed portion of the bill while the matter is being reviewed by the PSC. However, the remaining balance of the bill in question and any future bills should be paid when due.

## Critical facilities

Critical facilities are defined as those "facilities" from which essential services and functions for survival, continuation of public health and safety, and disaster recovery are performed or provided. Critical facilities plan for continuous electric service to ensure business

continuity or continuity of government. Critical facility owners are responsible for their own backup generation and appropriate fuel. To learn more or to request critical facility status, visit [rge.com/criticalfacility](https://rge.com/criticalfacility).

## Power disturbances

All electrical systems are subject to occasional, uncontrollable events, such as severe weather conditions or accidents involving utility poles or wires. These events can result in electrical disturbances such as high and low voltage conditions or power spikes that can damage or affect the operation of your electrical equipment, including appliances. Please be aware that it is your responsibility to protect your equipment against the possible effects of power disturbances.

## For emergencies, call RG&E. Need service? Call a contractor.

For natural gas emergencies, call us anytime at **800.743.1702** or call **911**. If you suspect a natural gas leak, get up, get out and call us immediately at **800.743.1702** or call **911** from a safe location. Do not call from the building or site of the leak. For electricity emergencies, call us anytime at **800.743.1701** or call **911**.

For all non-emergency energy services (furnace, boiler, water heater, stove or oven problems; second opinions; inspections; repair of heating, air conditioning or appliances) contact trained, certified equipment and appliance professionals or contractors to help you. Qualified, licensed electricians, plumbers, heating contractors or appliance repair professionals should install electricity and/or natural gas lines, change appliance connectors or check service lines running from the meter to your appliances. This is the responsibility of the property owner along with the maintenance and repair of these lines to ensure safe, proper operation.

## Energy supply

### Contact information

If you do not purchase your energy supply from RG&E, contact your supplier (also known as an energy services company or ESCO) for questions regarding your energy supply. Contact RG&E if you have questions regarding your delivery services. You can select an ESCO at any time for your energy supply.

### Electricity supply options

**RG&E supply service** consists of variable RG&E electricity supply and transition charges and a fixed RG&E delivery charge. The supply charge changes each month as the market price of electricity fluctuates.

**ESCO supply service** consists of an ESCO electricity supply charge, a variable transition charge and a fixed RG&E delivery charge. How much you pay for electricity supply depends on your agreement with your supplier. Contact an ESCO if you wish to select this option.

Regardless of which supply option you choose, you will pay the same delivery and transition charges as other customers with the same service classification.

## Electricity and natural gas supply choices

**new/moving and existing customers:** You can choose an ESCO or RG&E to provide your electricity and/or natural gas supply at anytime.

### Enrolling with an ESCO

- **Step 1: Obtain an ESCO list** - Participating ESCOs must meet certain requirements set forth by the PSC, New York Independent System Operator (NYISO)\* and RG&E. For the most current list of ESCOs, visit [rge.com/Choice](http://rge.com/Choice) or call **800.743.2110**.
- **Step 2: Compare prices and services.**
- **Step 3: notify the ESCO of your choice** - Your ESCO must then contact RG&E to enroll your account. Your ESCO will need your account number and Point of Delivery (PoD) ID number, which can be found on page 3 of your bill.

*\*For electricity ESCOs only.*

### Energy supply start date

Once RG&E receives your enrollment from your ESCO, your start date will be confirmed by RG&E in writing. Your start date to receive supply from your ESCO is the date of your next scheduled actual or estimated meter reading that occurs no earlier than:

- **For electricity supply** - five business days after RG&E receives a valid enrollment from your ESCO.
- **For natural gas supply** - ten business days after RG&E receives a valid enrollment from your ESCO.

If you want to begin receiving supply from your ESCO earlier than the start date, you or your ESCO can notify RG&E to request a special meter reading (a \$20 fee will apply) that will occur no earlier than:

- **For electricity supply** - five business days from the time of request.
- **For natural gas supply** - ten business days from the time of request.

### Billing with an ESCO

Once RG&E processes your ESCO enrollment, you will receive a bill for any energy supply received from RG&E up to the date of your meter reading.

- **Single-bill option** - If your ESCO offered a consolidated (single) bill option, your ESCO supply and RG&E delivery charges will be included in your RG&E bill. Pay RG&E the total amount owed (RG&E delivery and transition charges and ESCO supply charge).
- **Two-bill option** - If your ESCO's charges do not appear on your RG&E bill, your ESCO will be billing you separately for energy supply, and you will pay your ESCO directly. Continue to pay RG&E directly for your delivery and transition charges.

## Consumer protections

You have consumer protections when you choose an ESCO, including the ESCO Consumer Bill of Rights. Check with your ESCO about any consumer protections that might apply to you.

### ESCO terms and conditions – disclosure statement:

Your ESCO is required to provide you with a statement of the terms and conditions and your rights and responsibilities prior to you making a commitment to the ESCO. Your commitment to the ESCO will not be considered final until three business days after your receipt of the ESCO's disclosure statement. The statement must inform you about the intent of the ESCO to obtain your billing, usage and payment history information from RG&E.

### Confidentiality of your account information:

With your authorization, an ESCO may obtain your billing and usage history from RG&E. To receive your payment history, the ESCO must provide RG&E with your authorization at RG&E's request. If you do not want RG&E to release any or all account information, please contact us at [rge.com](http://rge.com) or call **800.743.2110**.

### Unauthorized switches (slamming) prevention:

Slamming is the illegal practice of switching a customer's energy supply service without the customer's consent. Before you receive your energy supply from an ESCO, RG&E will send you a letter confirming your choice of ESCO. **If you did not request this switch**, please contact us immediately to stop the transfer of your supply service. To contact us online, please visit [rge.com](http://rge.com) to complete and submit the Stop Supplier Switch form. To contact us by phone, call **585.771.6000** and at the tone provide your name, service address, account number, phone number and type of service for which the transfer should be stopped.

**Provider of last resort:** If, for any reason, your ESCO ceases to provide you with energy supply services, RG&E will automatically provide you with electricity and/or natural gas supply. Your service will not be interrupted.

### Complaint handling procedures

If your complaint is with an ESCO:

- Contact your ESCO directly.
- If your complaint remains unresolved or you are still not satisfied, you can contact the PSC by visiting their website at [dps.ny.gov/Complaints](http://dps.ny.gov/Complaints), or calling them at **800.342.3377**.
- If you are still not satisfied after talking to the PSC, you may call the New York State Attorney General's Office at **800.771.7755**.

If your complaint is with RG&E's delivery service, refer to page 4.





## Be energy safe

Visit [rge.com](https://www.rge.com) for important information on how to use electricity and natural gas safely.



## Self-service options: convenient and easy to use

Visit [rge.com](https://www.rge.com) to pay your bill; provide a meter reading; report an outage; sign up for **Alerts**, **eBill**, **AutoPay** and/or **Budget Billing** services; find energy efficiency rebates and more. You can also use our self-service number at **800.295.7323** anytime 24/7 to manage your account.



**Stay informed about power outages:** Sign up for **Outage Alerts** to receive notifications regarding weather conditions that may impact your electricity, updates on reported outages and more. Choose how you want to receive alerts - by text message, email, voice message, or all three.

## How to contact us

### Emergency numbers, available 24 hours a day:

- Electricity interruptions or emergencies: **800.743.1701**
- Natural gas odors or emergencies: **800.743.1702**

### Mail:

- Bill Payment: RG&E, P.O. Box 847813, Boston, MA 02284-7813
- Customer Care Center: RG&E, 180 S. Clinton Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604-1825

**Payment arrangements: 877.266.3492**

**Service and billing questions: 800.743.2110**

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TTY):** Dial **711** (NY Relay Service)

**Self-service number:** Call **800.295.7323** anytime 24/7 to enter a meter reading, pay your bill, check your account balance and more.

### Website:

- Pay your bill, report outages, sign up for **Outage Alerts**, view estimated restoration times and more by visiting [rge.com](https://www.rge.com).
- Send us an email by visiting [rge.com/ContactUs](https://www.rge.com/ContactUs).

