STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Regulatory Commission of Alaska

Mike Dunleavy, Governor
Julie Anderson, Commissioner
Robert M. Pickett, Chairman

For Immediate Release

April 21, 2020 Contact: Grace Salazar, Media Liaison

RCA Provides Guidance on Senate Bill 241
Moratorium on Disconnections of Residential Utility Service

On April 9, 2020, Governor Michael J. Dunleavy signed Senate Bill 241, which, among other things, prevents public utilities from disconnecting utility services when a residential customer cannot pay due to financial hardship during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency declared by the Governor on March 11, 2020, and as extended by the legislature until November 15, 2020. Under this law:

- All public utilities, including those providing electric, natural gas, refuse (garbage collection), sanitary sewer, drinking water, district heat, steam heat, and telecommunications services, are covered by the moratorium
- The moratorium applies only to residential customers.
- The moratorium does not relieve the customer of the obligation to pay the utility bill
- A residential customer is eligible for relief under the moratorium only if they: (a) sign a sworn statement, under penalty of perjury, that financial hardship related to the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency prevents them from fully paying their utility bill; and (b) negotiate a deferred payment arrangement with their utility.
- No interest or late fees may be imposed if deferred payments are made as agreed.
- Public utilities must make reasonable efforts to reconnect occupied dwellings that were disconnected for non-payment after March 11, 2020, if the residential customer submits a sworn statement of financial hardship and negotiates a deferred payment agreement with each utility.

Residential customers experiencing financial hardship may use the attached form, "Sworn Statement of COVID-19 Related Financial Hardship and Request to Negotiate a Residential Service Deferred Payment Agreement" to submit to their public utilities.

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