

AGENDA



Thursday, January 27, 2011

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 4**

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 15-9 as it relates to utility disconnection moratoriums during extreme weather conditions.

Amount and Source of Funding: There is no unanticipated financial impact.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Jawana Gutierrez, Vice-President, Customer Care, 322-6956.

Boards and Commission Action: To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on January 24, 2011.

The proposed amendments to the Utility Service Regulations set forth in City Code Chapter 15-9 will revise the City's practices regarding utility service disconnections for residential customers during extreme cold weather.

The current extreme weather utility disconnection moratorium regulation, 15-9-109, is based on the actual or forecasted average temperatures being 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below over a 24 consecutive hour period. The proposed amendments would provide for utility disconnection moratoriums based on the forecasted low temperature of =32 degrees Fahrenheit or the forecasted low temperature of =35 degrees Fahrenheit with a =50 percent chance of precipitation.

Austin Energy is committed to ensuring the safety and well being of our customer base during periods of extreme weather. The proposed amendment will align City utility cold weather practices with the City of Austin's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) and the Cold Weather Shelter Program, which is implemented when Austin's predicted overnight low is 32 degrees and dry or 35 degrees and wet.

The proposed amendment was developed by Austin Energy staff in conjunction with the Low Income Customer Advocacy Group, which was instrumental in the development of utility regulation changes for moratoriums on residential disconnections during periods of extreme heat approved by Council in May 2010.