

Response to Request for Information
DMB-145
1996 General Rate Proceeding

- Q. The response to PUB-27 states "The company would continue to read all routes in December and January and require 32 readers in those months." Are costs for both monthly and bi-monthly meter readings based upon this assumption, and if so, why?
- A. Yes, costs for both monthly and bi-monthly meter readings are based upon the assumption that all meters would be read in December and January.

In order to settle a customer's annual consumption, and thus annual billing, all meters are read in December. This also ensures that no adjustments will have to be made to company revenue in January for bi-monthly estimates that took place in the previous year (ie. December).

From the first year of operations of bi-monthly meter readings, it was realized that the highest variances in bi-monthly estimating occurred during the winter months. It is also known that estimates based on a one month base period (closer to present consumption) are most times, more accurate than those based upon a two month base period. It was therefore decided, that beginning in January 1995, all meters would be read in January. This provides a better base of information (i.e. two consecutive months of actual readings) upon which to base subsequent billing estimates.