

§ 2622. Obligations to consider and determine**(a) Request for consideration and determination**

Each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility may undertake the consideration and make the determination referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to any standard established by section 2621(d) of this title in any proceeding respecting the rates of the electric utility. Any participant or intervenor (including an intervenor referred to in section 2631 of this title) in such a proceeding may request, and shall obtain, such consideration and determination in such proceeding. In undertaking such consideration and making such determination in any such proceeding with respect to the application to any electric utility of any standard established by section 2621(d) of this title, a State regulatory authority (with respect to an electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) or nonregulated electric utility may take into account in such proceeding—

(1) any appropriate prior determination with respect to such standard—

(A) which is made in a proceeding which takes place after November 9, 1978, or

(B) which was made before such date (or is made in a proceeding pending on such date) and complies, as provided in section 2634 of this title, with the requirements of this chapter; and

(2) the evidence upon which such prior determination was based (if such evidence is referenced in such proceeding).

(b) Time limitations

(1) Not later than 2 years after November 9, 1978 (or after October 24, 1992, in the case of standards under paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) of section 2621(d) of this title), each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence the consideration referred to in section 2621 of this title, or set a hearing date for such consideration, with respect to each standard established by section 2621(d) of this title.

(2) Not later than three years after November 9, 1978 (or after October 24, 1992, in the case of standards under paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) of section 2621(d) of this title), each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall complete the consideration, and shall make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to each standard established by section 2621(d) of this title.

(3)(A) Not later than 2 years after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence the consideration referred to in section 2621 of this title, or set a hearing date for such consideration, with respect to each standard established by paragraphs (11) through (13) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(B) Not later than 3 years after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to

each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall complete the consideration, and shall make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to each standard established by paragraphs (11) through (13) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(4)(A) Not later than 1 year after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence the consideration referred to in section 2621 of this title, or set a hearing date for such consideration, with respect to the standard established by paragraph (14) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(B) Not later than 2 years after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall complete the consideration, and shall make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to the standard established by paragraph (14) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(5)(A) Not later than 1 year after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence the consideration referred to in section 2621 of this title, or set a hearing date for consideration, with respect to the standard established by paragraph (15) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(B) Not later than two years after August 8, 2005, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall complete the consideration, and shall make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to each standard established by paragraph (15) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(6)(A) Not later than 1 year after December 19, 2007, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall commence the consideration referred to in section 2621 of this title, or set a hearing date for consideration, with respect to the standards established by paragraphs (16) through (19) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(B) Not later than 2 years after December 19, 2007, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall complete the consideration, and shall make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to each standard established by paragraphs (16) through (19) of section 2621(d) of this title.

(c) Failure to comply

Each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility shall undertake the consideration, and make the determination, referred to in section 2621 of this title with respect to each standard established by section 2621(d) of this title in the first rate proceeding commenced after the

date three years after November 9, 1978, respecting the rates of such utility if such State regulatory authority or nonregulated electric utility has not, before such date, complied with subsection (b)(2) of this section with respect to such standard. In the case of each standard established by paragraphs (11) through (13) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005. In the case of the standard established by paragraph (14) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005. In the case of the standard established by paragraph (15),¹ the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005. In the case of the standards established by paragraphs (16) through (19) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to December 19, 2007.

(d) Prior State actions relating to standard under certain paragraphs of section 2621(d)

Subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to the standards established by paragraphs (11) through (13) and paragraphs (16) through (19) of section 2621(d) of this title in the case of any electric utility in a State if, before August 8, 2005—

(1) the State has implemented for such utility the standard concerned (or a comparable standard);

(2) the State regulatory authority for such State or relevant nonregulated electric utility has conducted a proceeding to consider implementation of the standard concerned (or a comparable standard) for such utility; or

(3) the State legislature has voted on the implementation of such standard (or a comparable standard) for such utility.

(e) Prior State actions relating to standard under section 2621(d)(14)

Subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to the standard established by paragraph (14) of section 2621(d) of this title in the case of any electric utility in a State if, before August 8, 2005—

(1) the State has implemented for such utility the standard concerned (or a comparable standard);

(2) the State regulatory authority for such State or relevant nonregulated electric utility has conducted a proceeding to consider implementation of the standard concerned (or a comparable standard) for such utility within the previous 3 years; or

(3) the State legislature has voted on the implementation of such standard (or a comparable standard) for such utility within the previous 3 years.

(f) Prior State actions relating to standard under section 2621(d)(15)

Subsections (b) and (c) of this section shall not apply to the standard established by paragraph

(15) of section 2621(d) of this title in the case of any electric utility in a State if, before August 8, 2005—

(1) the State has implemented for such utility the standard concerned (or a comparable standard);

(2) the State regulatory authority for such State or relevant nonregulated electric utility has conducted a proceeding to consider implementation of the standard concerned (or a comparable standard) for such utility; or

(3) the State legislature has voted on the implementation of such standard (or a comparable standard) for such utility.

(Pub. L. 95-617, title I, §112, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3122; Pub. L. 102-486, title I, §111(c), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 2795; Pub. L. 109-58, title XII, §§1251(b)(1)-(3)(A), 1252(g)-(i)(1), 1254(b)(1)-(3)(A), Aug. 8, 2005, 119 Stat. 963, 966, 967, 971; Pub. L. 110-140, title XIII, §1307(b), Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1793; Pub. L. 111-5, div. A, title IV, §408(b), Feb. 17, 2009, 123 Stat. 146.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(B), was in the original "this title", meaning title I (§101 et seq.) of Pub. L. 95-617, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3120, which enacted subchapters I to IV of this chapter and section 6808 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and amended sections 6802 to 6807 of Title 42. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

CODIFICATION

"October 24, 1992", referred to in subsec. (b)(1), (2), was in the original "the enactment of the Comprehensive National Energy Policy Act", and was translated as meaning the enactment of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, Pub. L. 102-486, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. The Comprehensive National Energy Policy Act was the original short title of H.R. 776, which was enacted into law on Oct. 24, 1992, as Pub. L. 102-486.

AMENDMENTS

2009—Subsecs. (b)(6), (d). Pub. L. 111-5 substituted "(16) through (19)" for "(17) through (18)" wherever appearing.

2007—Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 110-140, §1307(b)(1), added par. (6).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 110-140, §1307(b)(2), inserted at end "In the case of the standards established by paragraphs (16) through (19) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to December 19, 2007."

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 110-140, §1307(b)(3), inserted "and paragraphs (17) through (18)" before "of section 2621(d)" in introductory provisions.

2005—Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 109-58, §1251(b)(1), added par. (3).

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 109-58, §1252(g), added par. (4).

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 109-58, §1254(b)(1), added par. (5).

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-58, §1254(b)(2), which directed amendment of subsec. (d) by inserting at end "In the case of the standard established by paragraph (15), the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005.", was executed by making the insertion in subsec. (c) at end to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Pub. L. 109-58, §1252(h), inserted at end "In the case of the standard established by paragraph (14) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference contained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005."

Pub. L. 109-58, §1251(b)(2), inserted at end "In the case of each standard established by paragraphs (11) through (13) of section 2621(d) of this title, the reference con-

¹ So in original. Probably should be "paragraph (15) of section 2621(d) of this title."

tained in this subsection to November 9, 1978, shall be deemed to be a reference to August 8, 2005.”

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-58, §1251(b)(3)(A), added subsec. (d).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 109-58, §1252(i)(1), added subsec. (e).

Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 109-58, §1254(b)(3)(A), added subsec. (f).

1992—Subsec. (b)(1), (2). Pub. L. 102-486 inserted “(or after October 24, 1992, in the case of standards under paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) of section 2621(d) of this title)”.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2007 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 110-140 effective on the date that is 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as an Effective Date note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 2623. Adoption of certain standards

(a) Adoption of standards

Not later than two years after November 9, 1978, each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority), and each nonregulated electric utility, shall provide public notice and conduct a hearing respecting the standards established by subsection (b) of this section and, on the basis of such hearing, shall—

(1) adopt the standards established by subsection (b) of this section (other than paragraph (4) thereof) if, and to the extent, such authority or nonregulated electric utility determines that such adoption is appropriate to carry out the purposes of this chapter, is otherwise appropriate, and is consistent with otherwise applicable State law, and

(2) adopt the standard established by subsection (b)(4) of this section if, and to the extent, such authority or nonregulated electric utility determines that such adoption is appropriate and consistent with otherwise applicable State law.

For purposes of any determination under paragraphs (1) or (2) and any review of such determination in any court in accordance with section 2633 of this title, the purposes of this chapter supplement otherwise applicable State law. Nothing in this subsection prohibits any State regulatory authority or nonregulated electric utility from making any determination that it is not appropriate to adopt any such standard, pursuant to its authority under otherwise applicable State law.

(b) Establishment

The following Federal standards are hereby established:

(1) Master metering

To the extent determined appropriate under section 2625(d) of this title, master metering of electric service in the case of new buildings shall be prohibited or restricted to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(2) Automatic adjustment clauses

No electric utility may increase any rate pursuant to an automatic adjustment clause unless such clause meets the requirements of section 2625(e) of this title.

(3) Information to consumers

Each electric utility shall transmit to each of its electric consumers information regard-

ing rate schedules in accordance with the requirements of section 2625(f) of this title.

(4) Procedures for termination of electric service

No electric utility may terminate electric service to any electric consumer except pursuant to procedures described in section 2625(g) of this title.

(5) Advertising

No electric utility may recover from any person other than the shareholders (or other owners) of such utility any direct or indirect expenditure by such utility for promotional or political advertising as defined in section 2625(h) of this title.

(c) Procedural requirements

Each State regulatory authority (with respect to each electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) and each nonregulated electric utility, within the two-year period specified in subsection (a) of this section, shall (1) adopt, pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, each of the standards established by subsection (b) of this section, or, (2) with respect to any such standard which is not adopted, such authority or nonregulated electric utility shall state in writing that it has determined not to adopt such standard, together with the reasons for such determination. Such statement of reasons shall be available to the public.

(Pub. L. 95-617, title I, §113, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3123.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b), was in the original “this title”, meaning title I (§101 et seq.) of Pub. L. 95-617, Nov. 9, 1978, 92 Stat. 3120, which enacted subchapters I to IV of this chapter and section 6808 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare, and amended sections 6802 to 6807 of Title 42. For complete classification of title I to the Code, see Tables.

§ 2624. Lifeline rates

(a) Lower rates

No provision of this chapter prohibits a State regulatory authority (with respect to an electric utility for which it has ratemaking authority) or a nonregulated electric utility from fixing, approving, or allowing to go into effect a rate for essential needs (as defined by the State regulatory authority or by the nonregulated electric utility, as the case may be) of residential electric consumers which is lower than a rate under the standard referred to in section 2621(d)(1) of this title.

(b) Determination

If any State regulated electric utility or nonregulated electric utility does not have a lower rate as described in subsection (a) of this section in effect two years after November 9, 1978, the State regulatory authority having ratemaking authority with respect to such State regulated electric utility or the nonregulated electric utility, as the case may be, shall determine, after an evidentiary hearing, whether such a rate should be implemented by such utility.

(c) Prior proceedings

Section 2634 of this title shall not apply to the requirements of this section.