



April 4, 2014 For Immediate Release

Contact: Dept. of Administration, 608-266-7362 Public Service Commission, 608-266-9600

Heating Moratorium Ending, Financial Assistance Available

State officials remind consumers the heating moratorium is ending on April 16. The Public Service Commission encourages consumers to contact their local utility to arrange a payment plan for any outstanding bills, or to contact DOA's Home Energy Plus program for financial assistance if they are a low-income household.

State rules prohibit utilities from disconnecting consumers between November 1 and April 15 for nonpayment of utility bills due to Wisconsin's cold climate. After April 16, utilities are not required to provide service to customers who are behind on their bills. To avoid disconnection, customers who have fallen behind in payments are encouraged to contact their local utility to set up a payment plan. Below is a list of contact numbers for the five primary utilities:

Xcel Energy	800-895-4999
Alliant Energy	800-255-4268
We Energies	800-842-4565
Wisconsin Public Service Corporation	800-450-7260
Madison Gas & Electric Company	608-252-7144

Heating Assistance Available

For residents with a household income at or below 60 percent of the state median income level – \$47,485 for a family of four – heating assistance is available. Residents can apply for assistance through county social service offices, tribal governments and private non-profit agencies. To find the local agency in your area, call toll-free 1-866-HEATWIS (1-866-432-8947) or visit the Home Energy Plus <u>Where to Apply</u> webpage. For homes that qualify, Home Energy Plus will pay the benefits directly to the fuel suppliers to cover a portion of their heat or fuel bill.

In addition to heating and electric assistance, the <u>Home Energy Plus Program</u> offers emergency fuel assistance, counseling for energy conservation and energy budgets, proactive co-payment plans, and emergency furnace repair and replacement. The program is federally funded.