

199—1.9 (22) Public information and inspection of records.

1.9(1) Public information. Any interested person may examine all public records of the board by written request or in person at the offices of the board. Public records shall be examined only at the board during the board's regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding legal holidays. Unless otherwise provided by law, all public records, other than confidential records, maintained by the board shall be made available for public inspection.

1.9(2) Definitions.

"Confidential records." Records not available for public inspection under state law.

"Personally identifiable information." Information about or pertaining to an individual. This does not include information pertaining to corporations.

"Public records." Records of or belonging to the board which are necessary to the discharge of its duties.

1.9(3) Inspection of records. Subrule 1.9(4) below lists those board records which are routinely available for public inspection in the board's records center. Procedures governing requests for inspection of the records are set out in subrule 1.9(7).

1.9(4) Board records routinely available for public inspection. In accordance with the provisions of the State Records Management Manual, the board collects and maintains the following records that are routinely available for public inspection:

- a. Board calendars, agenda, news releases and other information intended for the public.
- b. Board decisions, orders, opinions and other statements of law or policy issued by the board in the performance of its function.
- c. The records of utility rate case proceedings.
- d. The records of rule-making proceedings.
- e. Annual reports of the board and annual reports filed with the board by public utilities.
- f. Tariffs filed by a public utility showing the rates and charges for its services and the rules and regulations under which the services are furnished.
- g. The records of formal utility service proceedings.
- h. Documents relating to informal and formal complaints against utilities.
- i. The records of formal utility investigations.
- j. The records of utility depreciation proceedings.
- k. Rulings on requests for waiver of board rules.
- l. The records of the board's annual review of an electric or gas utility.
- m. The records of proceedings for the issuance or amendment of an electric generator certificate.
- n. Information on public utilities' energy conservation programs.
- o. The records of formal proceedings for the issuance of an electric franchise or certificate.
- p. The records of formal proceedings for the issuance of a permit to construct a pipeline or underground gas storage facility.
- q. Petitions by a public utility for particular treatment of an extraordinary item under commission accounting rules.
- r. The records of board proceedings on matters relating to electric and pipeline safety.
- s. Public utility filings with the board relating to customer rights and remedies.
- t. All other records that are not specifically exempted from disclosure by subrule 1.9(5).

The board's files of public records listed above may contain confidential records. Any request to review confidential records must be made in accordance with subrule 1.9(8). In addition, the board's records listed in "b," "c," "e," and "h" may contain personally identifiable information.

Various legal and technical publications related to public utilities are also available for inspection by the public in the board's technical library.

1.9(5) Records not routinely available for public inspection. The following records are not routinely available for public inspection. The records are listed in this subrule by category, according to the statutory basis for withholding them from inspection.

a. Materials that are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute and which the board may in its discretion withhold from public inspection. Any person may request permission to inspect particular records withheld from inspection under this subrule. At the time of the request, the board will notify all interested parties. If the request is to review materials under subparagraphs 1.9(5) “a”(1) and 1.9(5) “a”(3), the board will withhold the materials from public inspection for 14 days to allow the party who submitted the materials an opportunity to seek injunctive relief. Records the commission is authorized to withhold from public inspection under Iowa law in its discretion include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Trade secrets recognized and protected as such by law. Iowa Code section 22.7.

(2) Records that represent and constitute the work product of an attorney, which are related to litigation or claim made by or against a public body. Iowa Code section 22.7.

(3) Reports made to the board which, if released, would give advantage to competitors and serve no public purpose. Iowa Code section 22.7.

(4) Personal information in confidential personnel records of the board. Iowa Code section 22.7.

(5) Communications not required by law, rule, or procedure that are made to a government body or to any of its employees by identified persons outside of government, to the extent that the government body receiving those communications could reasonably believe that those persons would be discouraged from making them to the government body if they were available for general public examination. Notwithstanding this provision:

1. The communication is a public record to the extent the person outside of government making that communication consents to its treatment as a public record.

2. Information contained in the communication is a public record to the extent it can be disclosed without directly or indirectly indicating the identity of the person outside of government making it or enabling others to ascertain the identity of that person.

3. Information contained in the communication is a public record to the extent it indicates the date, time, specific location, and immediate facts and circumstances surrounding the occurrence of a crime or other illegal act, except to the extent its disclosure would plainly and seriously jeopardize a continuing investigation or pose a clear and present danger to the safety of any person. In any action challenging the failure of the lawful custodian to disclose any particular information of the kind enumerated in this paragraph, the burden of proof is on the lawful custodian to demonstrate the disclosure of that information would jeopardize such an investigation or would pose such a clear and present danger. Iowa Code section 22.7.

(6) Materials exempted from public inspection under any other provisions of state law.

b. Materials that are specifically exempted from disclosure by statute and which the board is prohibited from making available for public inspection. The board is required to withhold the following materials from public inspection:

(1) Tax records submitted to the board and required by it in the execution of its duties shall be held confidential. Iowa Code section 422.20.

(2) Reserved.

c. Materials exempted pursuant to requests deemed granted by the board. Requests to withhold from public inspection material or information that contains negotiated transportation rates and prices for natural gas supply, reservation charges for portfolio gas supply contracts, and terms and prices for all hedging activity including both financial hedges and weather-related information included in monthly purchased gas adjustment filings, annual purchase gas adjustment filings, annual purchased gas adjustment reconciliations, periodic filings related to changes in purchased gas adjustment

factors, negotiated purchase prices for electric power, fuel, and transportation, customer-specific information, power supply bills in support of energy adjustment clause filings, network improvement and maintenance plans and related extensions and progress reports, wireless coverage area maps, service outage reports filed with the board pursuant to 199 IAC 39.5(5), or the financial records filed by applicants for certificates of convenience and necessity to provide competitive local exchange service shall be deemed granted pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(3), as a trade secret, or pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7(6), as a report to a government agency which, if released, would benefit competitors and would serve no public purpose, or pursuant to both sections, provided that the confidential portions of the filings are identified and segregated and an attorney for the company or a corporate officer avers that those portions satisfy Iowa Code section 22.7(3) or 22.7(6), or both, as interpreted by the Iowa Supreme Court. The information shall be held confidential by the board upon filing and will be subject to the provisions of 199 IAC 1.9(8) "b"(3).

1.9(6) *Requests that materials or information submitted to the board be withheld from public inspection.* Any person submitting information or materials to the board may submit a request that part or all of the information or materials not be made available for public inspection pursuant to the following requirements.

a. Procedure. The materials to which the request applies shall be physically separated from any materials to which the request does not apply. The request shall be attached to the materials to which it applies. Each page of the materials to which the request applies shall be clearly marked confidential.

b. Content of request. Each request shall contain a statement of the legal basis for withholding the materials from inspection and the facts to support the legal basis relied upon. The facts underlying the legal basis shall be supported by affidavit executed by a corporate officer (or by an individual, if not a business entity) with personal knowledge of the specific facts. If the request is that the materials be withheld from inspection for a limited period of time, the period shall be specified.

c. Compliance. If a request complies with the requirements of paragraphs "a" and "b" of this subrule, the materials will be temporarily withheld from public inspection. The board will examine the documents to determine whether the documents should be afforded confidentiality. If the request is granted, the ruling will be placed in a public file in lieu of the materials withheld from public inspection.

d. Request denied. If a request for confidentiality is denied, the documents will be held confidential for 14 days to allow the applicant an opportunity to seek injunctive relief. After the 14 days expire, the materials will be available for public inspection, unless the board is directed by a court to keep the information confidential.

1.9(7) *Procedures for the inspection of commission records which are routinely available for public inspection.* The records in question must be reasonably described by the person requesting them to permit their location by staff personnel. Members of the public will not be given access to the area in which records are kept and will not be permitted to search the files.

Advance requests to have records available on a certain date may be made by telephone or by correspondence.

a. Search fees. An hourly fee will be charged for searching for requested records. The fee will be based upon the pay scale of the employee who makes the search. No search fee will be charged if the records are not located, the records are not made available for inspection, or the search does not exceed one-quarter hour in duration.

b. Written request. Written requests should list the telephone number (if any) of the person making the request, and for each document requested should set out all available information which would assist in identifying and locating the document. The request should also set out the maximum search fee the person making the request is prepared to pay. If the maximum search fee is reached before all of the requested documents have been located and copied, the requesting person will be notified. When the requesting person requests that the board mail copies of the materials, postage and handling expenses should also be included.

c. Procedure for written request. The records will be produced for inspection at the earliest possible date following a request. Records should be inspected within seven days after notice is given

that the records have been located and are available for inspection. After seven days, the records will be returned to storage and additional charges may be imposed for having to produce them again.

d. Copies. Copies of public records may be made in the board's records and information center and the charge shall be the actual copying cost.

1.9(8) *Procedures for the inspection of board records which are not routinely available for public inspection.* Any person desiring to inspect board records which are not routinely available for public inspection shall file a request for inspection meeting the requirements of this subrule.

a. Content of request. The records must be reasonably described by the person requesting them, so as to permit their location by staff personnel. Requests shall be directed to the executive secretary of the board.

b. Procedure. Requests for inspection shall be acted upon as follows:

(1) If the board is prohibited from disclosing the records, the request for inspection will be denied with a statement setting forth the specific grounds for denial.

(2) If the board is prohibited from disclosing part of a document from inspection, that part will be deleted and the remainder will be made available for inspection.

(3) In the case of requests to inspect records not routinely available for public inspection under 1.9(5)“a”(1), 1.9(5)“a”(3), and 1.9(5)“c,” the board will notify all interested parties of the request to view the materials. The board will withhold the materials from public inspection for 14 days to allow the party who submitted the materials an opportunity to seek injunctive relief. If injunctive relief is not requested within this period, the records will be produced for inspection. Requests to review materials not routinely available for public inspection under any other category of paragraph 1.9(5)“a” will be acted upon by the board. If the request is granted by the board, or is partially granted and partially denied, the person who submitted the records to the board will be afforded 14 days from the date of the written ruling in which to seek injunctive relief. If injunctive relief is not requested within this period, the records will be produced for inspection.

1.9(9) *Procedures by which the subject of a confidential record may have a copy released to a named third party.* Upon a request which complies with the following procedures, the board will disclose a confidential record to its subject or to a named third party designated by the subject. Positive identification is required of all individuals making such a request.

a. In-person requests. Subjects of a confidential record who request that information be given to a named third party will be asked for positive means of identification. If an individual cannot provide suitable identification, the request will be denied.

Subjects of a confidential record who request that information be given to a named third party will be asked to sign a release form before the records are disclosed.

b. Written request. All requests by a subject of a confidential board record for release of the information to a named third party sent by mail shall be signed by the requester and shall include the requester's current address and telephone number (if any). If positive identification cannot be made on the basis of the information submitted along with the information contained in the record, the request will be denied.

Subjects of a confidential record who request by mail that information be given to a named third party will be asked to sign a release form before the records are disclosed.

c. Denial of access to the record. If positive identification cannot be made on the basis of the information submitted, and if data in the record is so sensitive that unauthorized access could cause harm or embarrassment to the individual to whom the record pertains, the board may deny access to the record pending the production of additional evidence of identity.

1.9(10) *Procedure by which the subject of a board record may have additions, dissents or objections entered into the record.* An individual may request an addition, dissent or an objection be entered into a board record which contains personally identifiable data pertaining to that individual. The request shall be acted on within a reasonable time.

a. Content of request. The request must be in writing and addressed to the executive secretary of the board. The request should contain the following information:

- (1) A reasonable description of the pertinent record.
- (2) Verification of identity.
- (3) The requested addition, dissent or objection.
- (4) The reason for the requested addition, dissent or objection to the record.

b. Denial of request. If the request is denied, the requester will be notified in writing of the refusal and will be advised that the requester may seek board review of the denial within ten working days after issuance of the denial.

1.9(11) *Advice and assistance.* Individuals who have questions regarding the procedures contained in these rules may contact the executive secretary of the board at the following address: Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

1.9(12) *Data processing system.* The board does not currently have a data processing system which matches, collates or permits the comparison of personally identifiable information in one record system with personally identifiable information on another record system.

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