## **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

(continued)

## Rule 23. Hazardous Substances.

The Company may evaluate the job site of any new service request, or of any site where maintenance or repairs of existing Distribution Facilities are required, for the purpose of identifying any hazardous wastes, substances, or contaminants ("hazards"), as such hazards are defined under state or federal law.

The circumstances that would cause an evaluation include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) the job site is within an area designated or listed as a hazardous site by a state or federal environmental agency; or (b) an employee or agent of the Company or site owner reports unusual odor, unusual materials in, or unusual skin reaction to, soil, equipment, tanks, or any substance found in any form at the site.

The Company shall specify mandatory conditions for the protection of its employees or agents, which may include indemnification of the Company by the Customer, when the Company receives information that hazards may exist at a job site, and such hazards may, in the Company's determination, cause a risk to the health or safety of its employees or agents in performance of the installation, maintenance, or repair of the service. The cost of complying with any such conditions, including the cost of handling contaminated soil moved during the installation process, if applicable, shall be borne by the Customer.

If conditions cannot be prescribed which, in the Company's judgment, will adequately protect its employees or agents against hazards, the Company may require the Customer to have its own Company-approved agents perform the installation and subsequent maintenance or repair within the hazardous area. The Company will retain responsibility for normal permits, and will retain ownership of Distribution Facilities to the Delivery Point.

If the area cannot be made safe, in the Company's judgment, the Company may move or relocate meters or other Company property at Customer's expense, as provided in **Rule 21**.

This rule does not apply to hazards in the public right-of-way, either for the purpose of recovering extraordinary costs associated with installation or maintenance, or for indemnification against future costs, except where the Customer's property is the source of the hazards in the right-of-way.

(continue to Sheet RR-24)

Issued October 31, 2012 NWN OPUC Advice No. 12-17

Effective with service on and after November 1, 2012