

**Public Service Corporations—Meters, Installation of—
Rules and Regulations, Adoption of by Public Service Corporation.**

An electric light company has the right to install, under reasonable regulations, its own meters, and if the consumer resists the installation of the same, the company may discontinue service to such consumer.

June 29th, 1918.

Railroad and Public Service Commission,
Helena, Montana.

Gentlemen:

I acknowledge receipt of your communication of recent date, as follows:

"We are enclosing herewith all papers in a controversy between the Speed Electric Company, of Poplar, Montana, and George F. Erickson and Dr. H. G. Harris, consumers, regarding the installation of meters.

"Will you please advise the Commission if the utility, under the circumstances, has the right to install, under reasonable regulation, its own meters, and if the consumer resists the installation of same, may the utility discontinue the service?"

A public service corporation may reasonably and properly require that the charge for light supplied by them be based upon and governed by the quantity used as indicated by meters, and may under reasonable rules and regulations install its meters on premises of the consumers. Such public service corporation may also designate the character of the meter to be used by the consumers.

See *Anderson v. Brown*, 135 Ill. App. 8, 3 Dillon Mun. Corp. (5th Ed.) 2215, *State vs. Butte City Water Co.* 18 Mont. 199, 44 Pac. 966.

For a violation of proper rules, the public service company may shut off the supply or discontinue the service.

Shires v. Ewing, 48 Kan. 170, 29 Pac. 320.

By reason of the foregoing authorities, I am of the opinion that the utility has the right to install its own meters in accordance with

reasonable rules and regulations, and that if the consumer fails to comply with such reasonable rules and regulations, service may be discontinued.

Respectfully,

S. C. FORD,

Attorney General.