

PRESS RELEASE

## **Coronavirus: for the 11 "former red zone" municipalities water, electricity, gas, and waste bills are suspended until 30 April.**

The ARERA resolution is valid for the municipalities of Bertonico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione D'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova dei Passerini, Vo'. Besseghini: *"every citizen needs to assess whether to make use of the suspension"*

Milan, 18 March 2020 - In accordance with the provisions of the Prime Ministerial Decree of 1 March 2020, bills issued or to be issued for water, electricity, gas and waste in the 11 municipalities of the "former red zone" of Lombardy and Veneto are suspended until 30 April,<sup>1</sup>, with the obligation to automatically defer the amounts to the next payment.

Bills accounting for consumption up to that date, even if they will be issued after 30 April 2020, are also suspended.

These are new provisions due to the Coronavirus emergency, provided for by Resolution 75/2020/R/com, as provided for in Decree Law No. 9 of 2 March 2020.

Public services management companies will also have to include information in the bills that the related amounts will be deferred automatically and without interest (not before 1 July 2020), according to a plan that will later be communicated to the customer/end user, who may still decide to make the payment in a lump sum or under any better conditions that the seller might want to offer. As for the rest of the country, the provisions already decided by ARERA to block disconnections for arrears also apply to the 11 municipalities of the "former red zone".

In order to ensure the continuity of service the supply, the Authority has also turned its attention to the economic and financial stability of the managers and their workers, who are working with great commitment and under unprecedented conditions during this period.

Energy sales companies, for which this suspension represents more than 3% of the total amount of bills to be collected in the same period, may request an advance payment of the amounts exceeding this threshold from the CSEA, the Energy and Environmental Services Fund. The advance payment can also be requested by operators of the integrated water service.

To ensure overall stability of the energy and environmental systems, ARERA recommends (to whoever is able to do so also considering movement restrictions) to continue their usual payment schedule.

*"It is clear since the publication of the government's decree - says the Authority's President, **Stefano Besseghini** - that the rules allow the payments to be suspended, not cancelled. This means that, once the emergency has passed, you must still pay the bills due. Each of the citizens of the 11 municipalities must therefore assess individually whether to make use of the possibility of suspending payments provided for by our resolution, or to make payments according to their usual routine. Contributing to the orderly functioning of local public services is also an important act of solidarity, at an extraordinary time like this".*

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<sup>1</sup> In Lombardy the municipalities: Bertonico, Casalpusterlengo, Castelgerundo, Castiglione D'Adda, Codogno, Fombio, Maleo, San Fiorano, Somaglia, Terranova dei Passerini. In Veneto the municipality of Vo'.