

West Virginia Customers To See Rate Changes

On August 1, 2009, Equitable Gas Company, LLC, announced a reduction in gas cost recovery rates for West Virginia customers effective November 1, 2009. The average residential customer will see a decrease in their monthly bill of \$36.99 per month and the average commercial customer will see a monthly decrease of \$134.08 in their bill. This rate decrease was due to declines in the cost of purchased gas and those savings are passed on to the customer.

Most recently, on October 29, 2009, Equitable Gas Company filed with the Public Service Commission of West Virginia a tariff containing increased rates, tolls and charges for furnishing natural gas service to all of its customers at various locations in the Counties of Braxton, Clay, Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Monongalia, Ritchie, Taylor, Tyler, Upshur, and Wetzel. The last time Equitable Gas Company sought a rate adjustment of this nature was in 1991.

The proposed rates and charges could become effective November 27, 2009, unless otherwise ordered by the Public Service Commission and will produce approximately \$3 million annually in additional revenue, an increase of 16.2%.

Should the rate proposal be approved, the average monthly bill for a residential customer using more than 6 Mcf of gas per month will increase by \$19.77 (18.4%) and a commercial customer using the same amount of gas per month will see an increase of \$26.27 (23.6%).

The proposed increases are based on averages of all customers. Individual customers may receive increases that are more or less than the average. The requested rates and charges are only a proposal and are subject to change by the Public Service Commission in its review of the filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the Public Service Commission.

Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or petition to intervene prior to November 27, 2009, unless otherwise modified by Commission order. Failure to timely protest or intervene can affect your rights to protest any rate increases and to participate in future proceedings. All protests or requests to intervene should briefly state the reason for the protest or intervention. Requests to intervene must comply with the Commission's rules on intervention. All protests and interventions should be addressed to The Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of West Virginia, PO Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323.

A complete copy of the tariff, as well as a representative of the Company to provide any information requested concerning it, is available to all customers, prospective customers, or their agents at the Equitable Gas Company office located at 500 Oakmound Road, Clarksburg, West Virginia 26302. A copy of the tariff is also available for public inspection at the office of the Executive Secretary of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION at 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.