

West Virginia Customers To See Rate Changes

On August 1, 2009, Equitable Gas Company, LLC, sought a reduction in gas cost recovery rates for West Virginia customers effective November 1, 2009. On October 9, 2009, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC) approved on an interim basis the full amount of the reduction subject to further hearings or other proceedings. As a result, the average residential customer will see a decrease this winter 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.

On October 29, 2009, Equitable Gas Company filed with the PSC a tariff containing increased rates and charges for furnishing natural gas distribution 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.

Most recently, on November 25, 2009, the PSC suspended implementation of the revised tariff for 270 days (until August 25, 2010) to fully review the matter.

Should the rate proposal be approved it will produce approximately \$3 million annually in additional revenue, an increase of 16.2%. 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 PSC in its review of the filing. Any increase in rates and charges will not become effective until authorized and approved by the PSC.

Anyone desiring to protest or intervene should file a written protest or petition to intervene with the PSC. 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.