



New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Greg Reinert
609-777-3305

Christie Administration Announces that Residential Natural Gas Customers will Pay Less to Heat Their Homes this Winter

TRENTON, N.J. – The Christie Administration announced today that New Jersey residential natural gas customers will pay less this winter for natural gas to heat their homes. Residential natural gas customers of Elizabethtown Gas Company (ETG), New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG), Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G), and South Jersey Gas Company (SJG) continue to adjust rates to reflect falling costs for natural gas service.

The average residential customer will see an additional rate reduction, on top of reductions over the last few years, ranging from .5% to 3.5%, effective October 1, 2012. A typical residential customer using 1,000 therms in PSE&G's territory will save \$38.27 annually, while an ETG customer's annual bill will reflect a rate reduction of \$26.10, and NJNG and SJG customers will save \$14.90 and \$6.90, respectively, over last year's October 1 rates. The decrease in natural gas costs for consumers is a reflection of the abundant supply of natural gas in the market place leading to projected decreases in the purchase costs for the 2012-2013 BGSS year.

"New Jersey residents and businesses continue to reap the benefits of low natural gas prices. Since 2008, the average residential customer's natural gas bill has dropped on average 38%, that's approximately \$728 dollars in annual savings," said Bob Hanna, President of the NJ Board of Public Utilities. "Low natural gas prices have also allowed the Board to approve the acceleration of natural gas infrastructure improvements, which will improve reliability and safety. In addition, low natural gas prices have resulted in lower electric bills, since a substantial portion of electric generation is from cleaner, more efficient natural gas power plants."

Reducing energy costs for all ratepayers is one of the key goals of Governor Chris Christie's Energy Master Plan. The Administration was able to reduce electric rates for residential ratepayers earlier this year during the state's eleventh annual electric auction for Basic Generation Service (BGS). This year's auction resulted in reduced electricity for ratepayers ranging from 6.4% to 1.0%, depending upon the Electric Distribution Company.

TOTAL NATURAL GAS UTILITY RATE REDUCTIONS

Gas Utility	Average Annual Gas Bill prior to October 1, 2012	Average Annual Gas Bill after October 1, 2012	Average Annual Savings
PSE&G	\$1,100.38	\$1,062.11	\$38.27
ETG	\$1,216.88	\$1,190.78	\$26.10
SJG	\$1,342.09	\$1,335.19	\$6.90
**NJNG	\$1,241.70	\$1,226.80	\$14.90

**BPU approved a price decrease in BGSS rates on April 1, 2012, which is accounted for here.

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About the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJBP)

The NJBP is a state agency and regulatory authority mandated to ensure safe, adequate and proper utility services at reasonable rates for New Jersey customers. Critical services regulated by the NJBP include natural gas, electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and cable television. The Board has general oversight responsibility for monitoring utility service, responding to consumer complaints, and investigating utility accidents. To find out more about the NJBP, visit our web site at www.nj.gov/bpu.