

PROPOSED INTERIM GAS RATES BILL INSERT FOR MERC-PNG CUSTOMERS

SERVED BY THE NORTHERN NATURAL GAS PIPELINE

INTERIM GAS RATES IN EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation-PNG (MERC-PNG) has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its natural gas rates by \$11,783,427, or approximately 5.07% overall. While the MPUC considers MERC-PNG's request, state law allows MERC-PNG to collect higher rates on an interim basis. **The overall interim rate increase is \$5,716,422, or an average of 2.46% over current rates including the cost of gas.** This increase appears on your bill as an interim rate adjustment. The amount of this adjustment is calculated by multiplying 9.42% by the total of the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge, that is on your bill.

The MPUC has 10 months to evaluate MERC-PNG's request. The MPUC must make its decision by September 30, 2011. If final rates are lower than interim rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

Why Is MERC-PNG Asking For An Increase?

MERC-PNG is requesting this increase due to reduced sales, and increased costs related to customer service functions, conservation programs, and general inflation.

Here's How The Rate Change Will Affect Monthly Bills

The proposed rate increase will affect individual monthly bills differently depending on natural gas use and customer type. The proposed customer charges and the distribution charges recover only the cost of providing distribution service to our customers. These rates do not include the wholesale cost of gas – which is passed on to you directly without adding a penny to the price. Your monthly bills will continue to vary due to changes in the wholesale cost of natural gas.

The chart below shows the effect of the interim and proposed rate change on monthly bills for customers with average gas usage. The interim monthly bill includes a 9.42% interim rate increase on distribution margins. Distribution margins include the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge. This calculation will not necessarily result in an interim monthly bill that is uniformly 2.46% higher than present bills because gas costs are not included in the calculation of the interim rate increase.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage (Therms)	Present Monthly Bill*	Interim Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill
General Service - Residential Sales	75	\$77	\$79	\$82
General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	80	\$83	\$85	\$90
General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	669	\$614	\$625	\$643
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	3,272	\$2,340	\$2,383	\$2,358
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Sales	10,384	\$6,412	\$6,459	\$6,460
Large Volume Interruptible Main Line Sales	4,530	\$2,911	\$2,940	\$2,941
Small Volume Joint Sales	4,540	\$3,277	\$3,340	\$3,317
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	32,354	\$4,029	\$4,409	\$4,065
Small Volume Joint Transportation	10,305	\$1,529	\$1,673	\$1,503
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	74,234	\$2,731	\$2,988	\$2,883

Large Volume Interruptible Main Line Transportation	22,354	\$996	\$1,090	\$1,043
Large Volume Joint Town Plant Transportation	98,152	\$3,741	\$4,093	\$4,121
Super Large Volume Joint Transportation	1,720,384	\$18,133	\$19,841	\$18,173
Super Large Volume Interruptible Transportation	630,139	\$2,977	\$3,257	\$3,017

**The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G007,011/GR-08-835.*

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE AND THE PER UNIT GAS DISTRIBUTION CHARGE

This chart shows the current and proposed customer charge and distribution charge for each customer class.

Customer Class	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge	Current Distribution Charge	Proposed Distribution Charge
General Service - Residential Sales	\$7.25	\$9.50	\$0.17746	\$0.21748
General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$12	\$14.50	\$0.15022	\$0.20531
General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$17	\$19.50	\$0.14984	\$0.18862
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Sales	\$160	\$175	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Large Volume Interruptible Main Line Sales	\$160	\$175	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Small Volume Joint Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086

Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Small Volume Joint Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Large Volume Interruptible Mainline Transportation	\$270	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Large Volume Joint Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Super Large Volume Joint Transportation	\$330	\$370	\$0.00420	\$0.00420
Super Large Volume Interruptible Transportation	\$330	\$370	\$0.00420	\$0.00420

What Is The Process For Reviewing MERC-PNG’s Request?

In addition to the review by the MPUC, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) conducts an investigation of MERC-PNG’s books and records. The Minnesota Office of the Attorney General-Residential Utilities Division (OAG-RUD) may investigate this proposal as well as other parties such as customer or public interest groups.

Public hearings will be scheduled by the MPUC and overseen by an Administrative Law Judge. Customers and others will have the opportunity to comment on our rate request at the hearings. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comments. Public notice of the hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in MERC-PNG’s service area, in an insert in your monthly bill, and on the internet at www.minnesotaenergyresources.com.

For More Information

You may visit MERC-PNG’s offices during normal business hours to examine the current and proposed rate schedules. Offices are located at:

301 2nd Street NW
Bemidji

910 Cloquet Avenue
Cloquet

304 North Park Street
Fairmont

3460 Technology Drive NW
Rochester

2665 145th Street West
Rosemount

You may also examine our current and proposed rate schedules and our request for new rates by visiting our website at www.minnesotaenergyresources.com. Or, you may contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce located at 85 Seventh Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101, Telephone: 651-296-4026, or TTY: 651-297-3067, or visit the eDockets Web site at <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>, under Docket No. G007,011/GR-10-977 to examine this filing.

Anyone who wishes to formally intervene in this case should contact the Administrative Law Judge, at the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, MN 55101, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. You do not need to contact the Administrative Law Judge if you simply want to attend the public hearings, provide oral comments at the public hearings or submit comment letters to the Administrative Law Judge. Written comments are most effective when the following three items are included: (1) the section of MERC-PNG's proposal you are addressing, (2) your specific recommendation, and (3) the reason for your recommendation.

You may also provide comments to the MPUC, 121 Seventh Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101-2147, Telephone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782, TTY: 800-627-3529, or e-mail: consumer.puc@state.mn.us.

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PROPOSED INTERIM GAS RATES BILL INSERT FOR MERC-PNG CUSTOMERS SERVED BY THE VIKING GAS PIPELINE

INTERIM GAS RATES IN EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation-PNG (MERC-PNG) has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its natural gas rates by \$11,783,427, or approximately 5.07% overall. While the MPUC considers MERC-PNG's request, state law allows MERC-PNG to collect higher rates on an interim basis. **The overall interim rate increase is \$5,716,422, or an average of 2.46% over current rates including the cost of gas.** This increase appears on your bill as an interim rate adjustment. The amount of this adjustment is calculated by multiplying 9.42% by the total of the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge, that is on your bill.

The MPUC has 10 months to evaluate MERC-PNG's request. The MPUC must make its decision by September 30, 2011. If final rates are lower than interim rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

Why Is MERC-PNG Asking For An Increase?

MERC-PNG is requesting this increase due to reduced sales, and increased costs related to customer service functions, conservation programs, and general inflation.

Here's How The Rate Change Will Affect Monthly Bills

The proposed rate increase will affect individual monthly bills differently depending on natural gas use and customer type. The proposed customer charges and the distribution charges recover only the cost of providing distribution service to our customers. These rates do not include the wholesale cost of gas – which is passed on to you directly without adding a penny to the price. Your monthly bills will continue to vary due to changes in the wholesale cost of natural gas.

The chart below shows the effect of the interim and proposed rate change on monthly bills for customers with average gas usage. The interim monthly bill includes a 9.42% interim rate increase on distribution margins. Distribution margins include the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge. This calculation will not necessarily result in an interim monthly bill that is uniformly 2.46% higher than present bills because gas costs are not included in the calculation of the interim rate increase.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage (Therms)	Present Monthly Bill*	Interim Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill
General Service - Residential Sales	65	\$61	\$63	\$66
General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	67	\$66	\$68	\$72
General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	499	\$417	\$426	\$439
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	3,286	\$2,277	\$2,321	\$2,296
Large Volume Interruptible Sales	93,218	\$54,129	\$54,429	\$54,442
Small Volume Joint Sales	1,899	\$1,352	\$1,382	\$1,369
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	5,023	\$837	\$916	\$762
Small Volume Joint Transportation	6,719	\$1,125	\$1,231	\$1,082
Large Volume Joint Transportation	21,138	\$1,305	\$1,428	\$1,474

**The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G007,011/GR-08-835.*

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE AND THE PER UNIT GAS DISTRIBUTION CHARGE

This chart shows the current and proposed customer charge and distribution charge for each customer class.

Customer Class	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge	Current Distribution Charge	Proposed Distribution Charge
General Service - Residential Sales	\$7.25	\$9.50	\$0.17746	\$0.21748
General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$12	\$14.50	\$0.15022	\$0.20531
General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$17	\$19.50	\$0.14984	\$0.18862
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Sales	\$160	\$175	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Small Volume Joint Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Small Volume Joint Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Large Volume Joint Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568

What Is The Process For Reviewing MERC-PNG’s Request?

In addition to the review by the MPUC, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) conducts an investigation of MERC-PNG’s books and records. The Minnesota Office of the Attorney General-Residential Utilities Division (OAG-RUD) may investigate this proposal as well as other parties such as customer or public interest groups.

Public hearings will be scheduled by the MPUC and overseen by an Administrative Law Judge. Customers and others will have the opportunity to comment on our rate request at the hearings. The public is encouraged to attend and provide comments. Public notice of the hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in MERC-PNG’s service area, in an insert in your monthly bill, and on the internet at www.minnesotaenergyresources.com.

For More Information

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PROPOSED INTERIM GAS RATES BILL INSERT FOR MERC-PNG CUSTOMERS SERVED BY THE GREAT LAKES GAS PIPELINE

INTERIM GAS RATES IN EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation-PNG (MERC-PNG) has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its natural gas rates by \$11,783,427, or approximately 5.07% overall. While the MPUC considers MERC-PNG's request, state law allows MERC-PNG to collect higher rates on an interim basis. **The overall interim rate increase is \$5,716,422, or an average of 2.46% over current rates including the cost of gas.** This increase appears on your bill as an interim rate adjustment. The amount of this adjustment is calculated by multiplying 9.42% by the total of the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge, that is on your bill.

The MPUC has 10 months to evaluate MERC-PNG's request. The MPUC must make its decision by September 30, 2011. If final rates are lower than interim rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

Why Is MERC-PNG Asking For An Increase?

MERC-PNG is requesting this increase due to reduced sales, and increased costs related to customer service functions, conservation programs, and general inflation.

Here's How The Rate Change Will Affect Monthly Bills

The proposed rate increase will affect individual monthly bills differently depending on natural gas use and customer type. The proposed customer charges and the distribution charges recover only the cost of providing distribution service to our customers. These rates do not include the wholesale cost of gas – which is passed on to you directly without adding a penny to the price. Your monthly bills will continue to vary due to changes in the wholesale cost of natural gas.

The chart below shows the effect of the interim and proposed rate change on monthly bills for customers with average gas usage. The interim monthly bill includes a 9.42% interim rate increase on distribution margins. Distribution margins include the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge. This calculation will not necessarily result in an interim monthly bill that is uniformly 2.46% higher than present bills because gas costs are not included in the calculation of the interim rate increase.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage (Therms)	Present Monthly Bill*	Interim Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill
General Service - Residential Sales	70	\$65	\$67	\$70
General Service - Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	89	\$84	\$86	\$91
General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	614	\$509	\$520	\$536
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	2,556	\$1,775	\$1,811	\$1,790
Small Volume Joint Sales	3,755	\$2,665	\$2,723	\$2,711
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	37,338	\$1,543	\$1,688	\$1,577
Large Joint Town Plant Transportation	91,125	\$3,297	\$3,607	\$3,508
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	8,023	\$1,187	\$1,299	\$1,125

**The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G007,011/GR-08-835.*

PROPOSED CHANGES FOR MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE AND THE PER UNIT GAS DISTRIBUTION CHARGE

This chart shows the current and proposed customer charge and distribution charge for each customer class.

Customer Class	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge	Current Distribution Charge	Proposed Distribution Charge
General Service - Residential Sales	\$7.25	\$9.50	\$0.17746	\$0.21748
General Service - Small Commercial &	12	\$14.50	\$0.15022	\$0.20531

Industrial Sales

General Service - Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$17	\$19.50	\$0.14984	\$0.18862
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Small Volume Joint Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.11681	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Large Volume Joint Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.03248	\$0.03568
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.11681	\$0.12086

What Is The Process For Reviewing MERC-PNG's Request?

In addition to the review by the MPUC, the Minnesota Office of Energy Security (OES) conducts an investigation of MERC-PNG's books and records. The Minnesota Office of the Attorney General-Residential Utilities Division (OAG-RUD) may investigate this proposal as well as other parties such as customer or public interest groups.

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PROPOSED INTERIM GAS RATES BILL INSERT FOR MERC-NMU

INTERIM GAS RATES IN EFFECT FEBRUARY 1, 2011

Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation-NMU has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for permission to increase its natural gas rates by \$3,381,882, or approximately 5.60% overall. While the MPUC considers MERC-NMU's request, state law allows MERC-NMU to collect higher rates on an interim basis. **The overall interim rate increase is \$1,896,914, or an average of 3.14% over current rates including the cost of gas.** This increase appears on your bill as an interim rate adjustment. The amount of this adjustment is calculated by multiplying 11.17% by the total of the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge, that is on your bill.

The MPUC has 10 months to evaluate MERC-NMU's request. The MPUC must make its decision by September 30, 2011. If final rates are lower than interim rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

Why Is MERC-NMU Asking For An Increase?

MERC-NMU is requesting this increase due to reduced sales, and increased costs related to customer service functions, conservation programs, and general inflation.

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The chart below shows the effect of the interim and proposed rate change on monthly bills for customers with average gas usage. The interim monthly bill includes an 11.17% interim rate increase on distribution margins. Distribution margins include the customer charge, the distribution charge, and if applicable, the demand charge. This calculation will not necessarily result in an interim monthly bill that is uniformly 3.14% higher than present bills because gas costs are not included in the calculation of the interim rate increase.

PROPOSED CHANGE IN AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

Customer Class	Average Monthly Usage (Therms)	Present Monthly Bill*	Interim Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill
General Service - Residential Sales	69	\$70	\$73	\$73
General Service – Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	83	\$84	\$87	\$89
General Service – Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	492	\$452	\$464	\$450
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	5,511	\$3,701	\$3,769	\$3,846
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Sales	24,811	\$14,423	\$14,519	\$14,615
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	21,876	\$2,380	\$2,646	\$2,846
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	82,323	\$2,761	\$3,070	\$3,283
Small Volume Joint Transportation	13,541	\$1,917	\$2,131	\$2,262
Large Volume Joint Town Plant Transportation	38,990	\$1,731	\$1,925	\$2,051
Super Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	349,482	\$3,411	\$3,792	\$3,452

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PROPOSED CHANGES FOR MONTHLY CUSTOMER CHARGE AND THE PER UNIT GAS DISTRIBUTION CHARGE

This chart shows the current and proposed customer charge and distribution charge for each customer class.

Customer Class	Current Fixed Charge	Proposed Fixed Charge	Current Distribution Charge	Proposed Distribution Charge
General Service - Residential Sales	\$7.25	\$9.50	\$0.21759	\$0.21748
General Service – Small Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$12	\$14.50	\$0.18564	\$0.20531
General Service – Large Commercial & Industrial Sales	\$17	\$19.50	\$0.19660	\$0.18862
Small Volume Interruptible Sales	\$80	\$85	\$0.09560	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Sales	\$160	\$175	\$0.02846	\$0.03568
Small Volume Interruptible Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.09560	\$0.12086
Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.02846	\$0.03568
Small Volume Joint Transportation	\$250	\$155	\$0.09560	\$0.12086
Large Volume Joint Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$245	\$0.02846	\$0.03568
Super Large Volume Interruptible Town Plant Transportation	\$330	\$370	\$0.00850	\$0.00850

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