

WASHINGTON COMFORT ZONE – September 2017

Lower rates headed your way – again!

NW Natural files for a rate reduction for the third year in a row

On Sept. 12, 2017, NW Natural asked the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to approve lower rates. If approved, starting Nov. 1 customers' rates will drop for the third year in a row.

Residential customers will see a rate reduction of 3.1% or about \$1.60 for the average home using 53 therms a month.

Small-commercial customers will see a rate reduction of 3.4% or about \$7.52 for the average business using 248 therms a month.

"We're proud to pass cost savings on to our customers while providing the same high-quality service, reliability and safety that they expect," said David H. Anderson, NW Natural President and CEO. "Once again, our customers will be paying less for their natural gas than they did 15 years ago."

What's the reason for lower rates?

The combined effects of these three filings contribute to the drop in rates:

1. **Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA)** – A 3.1% or \$1.60 reduction on the average monthly residential bill and a 3.4% or \$7.49 reduction on the average small-commercial bill. The filing trues up differences between the estimated and actual cost of natural gas, and it establishes the customer costs for natural gas from Nov. 1, 2017 - Oct. 31, 2018.
2. **Energy efficiency programs** – A 0.2% or 10 cent increase on the average monthly residential bill and a 0.2% or 38 cent increase on the average monthly small-commercial bill for energy-efficiency programs that support cost effective natural gas conservation.
3. **Low income assistance** – A 0.2% or 10 cent reduction on the average monthly residential bill, and a 0.2% or 42 cent reduction on the average monthly small-commercial bill for programs that help low-income residential customers install energy-efficiency improvements and stay warm during the winter.

The Company files for changes in rates for these reasons every year at this time. The filings are requests that are subject to public review and a decision by the WUTC. Customers may submit comments, request more information, review the filing, and find out about open meetings at www.utc.wa.gov, comments@utc.wa.gov, 1-888-333-9882, or WUTC, PO Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250.

Customers can also get more information at www.nwnatural.com in the Rates & Regulations section or by calling 503-226-4211 and asking for the Rates & Regulatory Department.

E-COMFORT ZONE COPY

What's up with rates? Actually, they're going down – again!

For the third year in a row, NW Natural has filed to reduce customer rates starting Nov. 1. That means you'll continue to pay less for natural gas than you did 15 years ago!