



A look at your gas bill

Class and service type: This refers to the type of service — residential and commercial, utility and nonutility, metered and nonmetered — and the corresponding rate.

Meter ID: This identifies the number on the meter and type of meter.

Readings: This shows the dates of the most recent and last meter reading to determine gas consumption. Some months, the word “estimate” in this column indicates that a meter reading wasn’t taken. Instead, the company determines usage based on six-month billing history.

Read days: This is the number of days between the last and current meter readings.

Factor: This is the multiple used to convert to therms the volume of gas used that the meter measures, since gas is priced as dollars per therm. The factor is determined by the type of meter, gas pressure and energy content of gas per cubic foot.

Therms: This is the converted usage rate on which a user is charged. It’s a rate approved by the state Public Utilities Commission.

Gas charges: This is what you pay for the gas consumed. To calculate it, therms is multiplied by a predetermined rate for each type of user.

Adjustments to minimum bill: This applies only

to nonresidential users. Some commercial rate schedules require a minimum monthly usage — if a user doesn’t meet that requirement he pays the difference.

Fuel cost adjustment: This shows an increase or decrease from a base fuel price set by the PUC for The Gas Co.

Customer charge: This is a fixed monthly charge of \$6.75 approved by the PUC. It pays for the company’s pipeline system and other fixed assets.

Field collection fee: This is a one-time \$25 fee for a field call the company makes to collect on an overdue bill or a bounced check.

Repair range: This is for the additional service such as repairs to a water heater or gas range

that the gas company provides. Minimum cost is \$45 per visit.

State G.E.T.: This is a 4.166 percent charge on your bill amount that goes toward the state general excise tax.

Deposit utility: This \$75 initial deposit guarantees future payments. It’s a charge that new customers who don’t pass a credit check or delinquent customers have to pay. The Gas Co. returns the amount if the customer pays his or her bills on time for a year.

U-finance charge: This is a late charge at 12 percent APR, or 1 percent per month, for utility customers.