



News Release

April 24, 2008

By Board Order No. 50/08, the Public Utilities Board (Board) approves on an interim basis Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.'s (Centra) application for revised May 1, 2008 natural gas rates. The new rates incorporate a 10.7% increase to primary gas rates, which affect only customers purchasing natural gas from Centra, and a 1% across-the-board increase for non-primary gas rates affecting all customers. The 1% general increase implement an increase related to non-primary gas matters previously approved by Order 99/07 that arose out of the 2007 General Rate Application hearing.

A typical residential primary gas customer may expect their annual billings to increase by approximately \$90 a year.

For customers receiving primary gas supply from Centra:

Customer Class	Projected Annual Bill Increase
SGS Residential	7.3% - 7.5%
LGS	7.5%- 9.0%
High Volume Firm	8.3% - 9.3%
Mainline	8.9% - 9.5%
Interruptible	9.0% - 9.9%

Customers purchasing primary gas from brokers are not affected by the primary gas rate changes now to be implemented, but will note increased billings related to the 1% general non-primary gas rate increase.

Natural gas commodity prices are set by the market, and have increased sharply following even sharper price increases for oil and gasoline. Centra does not mark-up its commodity costs, which are reflected in rates at cost. Though primary natural gas rates are to rise, the increase has been mitigated to some extent by draws from Centra's gas storage, and by hedging.

With electric space-heat now expected to cost less than natural gas space heating for homes without a high efficiency furnace, consumers with conventional and mid-efficiency natural gas furnaces should consider an upgrade. Consumers have benefited from the rise in the Canadian dollar, and the Board notes that if the Canadian dollar had remained at 1999's level of 67 cents U.S. primary gas rates would be far higher.

A copy of the Order, which contains significant background information, may be reviewed on the Board's website www.pub.gov.mb.ca, or be obtained through the Board's Office.

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