



## Action on Energy Plan Could Lower Gas Bills

The U.S. House and Senate are poised to reconsider a National Energy Plan. If implemented correctly, the plan could lower rising wholesale natural gas prices, which typically account for two-thirds of your monthly gas bill. Citizens Gas, like all utilities in Indiana, passes on the cost of the natural gas you use each month on a dollar-for-dollar basis, with no retail markup.



*Changing federal policies to allow more natural gas production in the U.S. is the key to lowering gas bills nationwide.*

The good news is that there is no shortage of natural gas right here in the United States and Canada. The bad news is that contradictory federal policies are increasing demand for natural gas while simultaneously restricting development of natural gas supplies. Power generators and industries are increasingly using clean-burning natural gas because of mandates under the federal Clean Air Act. At the same time, past Congressional actions and Presidential orders have prohibited natural gas exploration and production in vast areas of the U.S. mainland and offshore as well. This contradictory approach to natural gas policy has caused wholesale natural gas prices to approximately double over the past four years.

Citizens Gas and the American Gas Association believe the Congress can dramatically lower natural gas prices by following the recommendations of a recent report, "Ending the Energy Stalemate: A Bipartisan Strategy to Meet America's Energy Challenges," by the National

Commission on Energy Policy. The report's recommendations include:

- Constructing a pipeline to transport natural gas from Alaska to the lower-48 states could provide substantial consumer benefits in the form of reduced natural gas prices that would likely far outweigh the costs to the U.S. Treasury of helping pipeline developers manage the financial risks associated with the project;
- Addressing obstacles to the siting and construction of infrastructure needed to support increased imports of liquefied natural gas (LNG), in part through concerted public-education efforts regarding LNG safety;
- Improving the ability of federal agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management to evaluate and manage access to natural gas resources on public lands;
- Encouraging natural gas and electric utilities to continue educating consumers about wise use of energy; and
- Developing better energy technologies for the future, in part through enhanced government incentives to the private sector for energy research and early deployment.

If you would like to see our nation expand production of clean-burning natural gas, we suggest you contact our Congressional representatives at:

**Sen. Evan Bayh**

463 Russell Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5623

**Rep. Julia M. Carson**

U.S. House of Representatives  
1535 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4011

**Citizens Gas**

2020 N. Meridian St.  
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### How to contact us:

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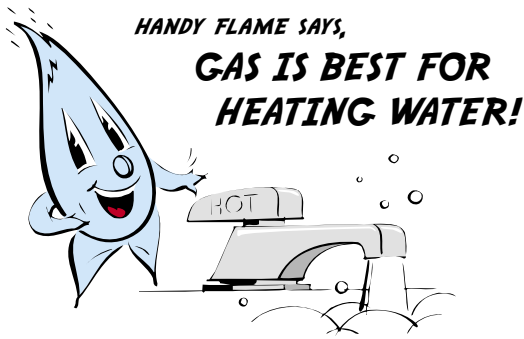
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## Citizens Gas Seeks General Rate Adjustment

Citizens Gas recently announced that it has filed a general rate petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) seeking approval to increase its operating revenues by approximately \$38.5 million, which represents a 9.6 percent revenue increase for the utility's gas distribution and storage system serving 264,000 customers in Marion County. Based on a 9.6 percent increase in revenues, the utility estimates the average residential customer's bill would increase approximately \$89 per year. Any increase in base rates would not take effect for several months, pending review and approval of the rate petition by the IURC.

Even after the IURC approves an increase in base rates, Citizens Gas estimates that it would continue to have among the lowest rates of the 25 gas utilities in Indiana and gas utilities in 20 large cities in the northern half of the United States.

The filing marks the first base rate request by Citizens Gas since 1991. Since that time, Citizens Gas has invested approximately \$230 million to ensure its systems are safe and reliable. The utility also estimates the overall cost of doing business has increased more than 35 percent since 1991.

"Through disciplined efforts to hold down costs,

we've been able to avoid a base rate increase for 14 years. However, we have seen annual increases in taxes and various other expenses, especially employee health care costs. Sound financial management now dictates that Citizens Gas adjust base rates in order to recover its current costs of providing gas service," said Dave Griffiths, President and CEO of Citizens Gas.

The proposed base rate adjustment would apply to the Delivery and Service portion of the customer's bill, which typically accounts for about one-third of the monthly charge. The Delivery and Service charge covers costs such as operation and maintenance of pipeline systems, employee payroll and health care costs, costs to store gas, taxes, repayment of debt, extensions and replacements, uncollected gas bill costs and other operating expenses. The proposed increase in base rates does not apply to the Gas Used charge, which typically accounts for two-thirds of the monthly charge.

The new base rates would include a conservation rate adjustment that would increase the utility's annual conservation and weatherization assistance to customers, which currently represents an investment of more than \$600,000 per year.

## Ham, Egg, Cheese, & Spinach Torte

Recipe by Jeff White from HH Gregg Fine Lines

### Ingredients:

- 1 package puff pastry dough sheets
- 12 eggs
- 1/2 tablespoon tarragon
- 1 pound sliced ham
- 8 ounces diced pimiento
- 1 pound frozen spinach, well drained
- 8 ounces Swiss cheese slices

### Directions:

Line springform pan with puff pastry on the sides and bottom, reserving a round piece for the top. Scramble eggs with tarragon and salt and pepper, cook only half way then refrigerate to cool. Begin layering the torte with 1/2 the scrambled eggs then ham, spinach, Swiss cheese and all of the pimiento, then layer in reverse with remaining ingredients. Top with the pastry round and seal the edge. Brush with an egg wash and bake at 350 for 45 min.

