



Zia applies to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission

On Monday, April 19, 2021, Zia Natural Gas Company ("Zia") applied to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ("NMPRC") in Case No. 21-00096-UT for emergency authorization to adjust its Gas Cost Factor for gas sales after May 1, 2021. The cost of purchasing and transporting gas to Zia's system is passed directly through to the customer as the Gas Cost Factor. A regulated utility is not allowed to make or lose money of the cost of gas. The change in the Gas Cost Factor is due to a very specific Extreme Pricing Event in the natural gas market that occurred for a week in February of 2021. The bill impact and proposed Gas Cost Factor are provided for your review in the table.

From February 13 to 17 of 2021, Winter Storm Uri hit a large portion of the middle of the United States sending temperatures plummeting and energy usage skyrocketing. Winter Storm Uri had a major impact on the state of Texas straining the electrical grid to the point that many people were out of electricity for days. Unfortunately, as electricity producers scrambled to fill the gap left by the loss of renewable energy and the lack of natural gas from frozen production, the wholesale market price for natural gas, which is unregulated, rose astronomically. Facing high demand from customers, natural gas utilities throughout a large swath of the U.S. had no choice but to pay extraordinarily higher prices for natural gas to keep the gas flowing to their own customers. Although, for a regulated natural gas utility, the cost to purchase and transport gas is a direct pass-through cost, the upset in the natural gas market will have a major impact on both natural gas and electric customers for several years.

Zia Natural Gas Company provides natural gas service to approximately 39,500 customers throughout New Mexico.

Average Monthly Bill Comparison

Lea and Eddy County					
Class	Avg Usage (ccf)	Current (\$)	Proposed (\$)	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Residential	47	42.33	67.21	24.88	59%
Small Commercial	101	80.37	133.85	53.48	67%
Large Commercial	684	465.25	827.43	362.18	78%
Irrigation	407	264.80	480.31	215.51	81%
Industrial Med	10,618	6,584.47	12,206.70	5,622.23	85%

(Monthly usage reported in one hundred cubic feet at billing pressure - 13.45psia.)

Lincoln County					
Class	Avg Usage (ccf)	Current (\$)	Proposed (\$)	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Residential	60	45.73	73.60	27.87	61%
Small Commercial	137	91.95	155.59	63.64	69%
Large Commercial	1,352	767.94	1,395.95	628.01	82%

(Monthly usage reported in one hundred cubic feet at billing pressure - 11.8 psia.)

Dona Ana County					
Class	Avg Usage (ccf)	Current (\$)	Proposed (\$)	Increase (\$)	Increase (%)
Residential	47	39.62	48.94	9.32	24%
Small Commercial	119	84.38	107.97	23.59	28%
Large Commercial	873	528.96	701.99	173.03	33%
Irrigation	247	154.16	203.12	48.96	32%
Industrial Med	25,438	14,053.80	19,095.61	5,041.81	36%

(Monthly usage reported in one hundred cubic feet at billing pressure - 13.00 psia.)

Colfax County - No Impact/ No Proposed Change

Gas Cost Factor

Area	Current (\$/ccf at billing pressure)	Proposed (\$/ccf at billing pressure)	Increase (\$/ccf at billing pressure)
Lea/Eddy County	0.3231	0.8526	0.5295
Lincoln County	0.2835	0.7480	0.4645
Dona Ana County	0.2749	0.4731	0.1982

The cold weather event that occurred in February of 2021 did not affect Zia's supply of natural gas to its customers, but had a very large financial impact on Zia through its gas purchases to supply its customers' higher demand for natural gas. Zia had to immediately seek approval for financing to be able to pay the natural gas bills due at the end of March.

Overall, Zia spent approximately \$19.6 million in February to purchase and transport gas to Zia's system, including fees. After analyzing the invoices from February, Zia determined the normal February cost to be \$1.9 million and the extraordinary cost incurred for its customers to be \$17.7 million. In comparison, Zia's annual gas purchase last year was approximately \$10 million. Due to the major financial impact of this unprecedented price spike on the business, Zia had to immediately file for approval by the NMPRC to begin recovering the costs from customers. Zia requests to spread the costs for that 7-day period out over a 17-month period instead of its normal 12-month period. Zia paid its gas supply bills to ensure its continuing supply to serve its customers, but protested the extraordinary costs, and is cooperating with the New Mexico Attorney General's and the NMPRC's investigations into the

market pricing event. If any restitution comes from these or other investigations and Zia receives a settlement credit or refund, that amount would also flow back to Zia's customers.

As always, Zia Natural Gas Company encourages all of their customers to winterize their homes and conserve energy by lowering the thermostat when not at home. For customers who do need help with winter heating bills, assistance is available through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) at the local Human Services Division office or call (800)283-4465. In addition, a new pandemic relief program is now available through the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program at www.renthelpnm.org.

In observance of Memorial Day,

MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

our offices will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021.

Celebrate Mom on Mother's Day Sunday, May 9, 2021



Recipe

DIRECTIONS

Tacos On A Stick

A southwestern twist on traditional shish kabobs

Ingredients:

1 Envelope of Taco Seasoning	1 medium sweet red pepper, cut into chunks
1 Cup tomato juice	1 large onion cut into wedges
2 Tablespoons canola oil	16 cherry tomatoes
2 pounds of beef top sirloin steak, cut into 1-inch cubes	Salsa con queso or sour cream, optional
1 medium green pepper, cut into chunks	

Directions

In a large shallow dish, combine the taco seasoning, tomato juice and oil; mix well. Remove ½ cup for basting; refrigerate. Add beef to dish and turn to coat. Cover; refrigerate for at least 5 hours.

Drain and discard marinade. On metal or soaked wooden skewers, alternately thread beef, peppers, onion and tomatoes. Grill, uncovered, over medium heat for 3 minutes on each side. Baste with reserved marinade. Continue turning and basting until meat reaches desired doneness, 8-10 minutes. If desired, serve with salsa con queso or sour cream.

For more delicious recipes like this visit tasteofhome.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Due to social distancing protocols and restrictions on large gatherings, events which would ordinarily be published in our Community Calendar have been canceled or postponed until later dates. Therefore, we will not advertise any events in our Community Calendar until social gathering restrictions have been lifted. Our customers' safety remains our top priority and we thank you for your understanding.

Reminder: We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non-religious. Non-Profit organization messages will be given preference. Please send the information to wproctor@zngc.com before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.

Help is available!



If you have experienced financial hardship related to the COVID-19 outbreak, there is rental and utility assistance available through the Emergency Rental

Assistance Program (ERAP). To learn more or apply for rental and utility assistance, please visit www.renthelpnm.org

Believe It or Not!

Wetter Water? Firefighters use wetting agents to make water wetter. When added to water, these agents reduce the surface tension of water which increases the penetration and spreading ability.

A Tiger's skin is striped just like their fur, and similar to human fingerprints, no two stripe patterns are alike.

The hardest working muscle in the body is your heart. It pumps more than 2000 gallons of blood a day and beats 2.5 billion times in a 70-year life span.

The tallest man ever recorded was American Robert Wadlow (1918-1940). Mr. Wadlow stood 8 feet 11.1 inches tall. His astonishing height was the result of an abnormally enlarged pituitary gland.

At just an inch in size, the Irukandji Jellyfish carries one of the most painful stings in the animal kingdom. The toxin in the venom causes excruciating pain and can lead to heart attack in its victims. The symptoms of the sting are so severe they are referred to as the "Irukandji Syndrome". However, when it comes to lethality, the sting from the Chironex Fleckeri, more commonly known as the "Box Jellyfish", can cause death in a healthy human in minutes.

The longest word in the English language is 189,819 letters long. This word, which is the proper name for the human protein nicknamed "Titin", allegedly takes a person three and a half hours to read out loud.

"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking". - Albert Einstein



If you have a past due amount on your bill, please let us help you with setting up a payment arrangement so that you may avoid service interruption.

Zia Natural Gas Company will soon resume our collection activities to include

service disconnects for non-payment. Many of our customers have elected to take advantage of our payment plan program to bring past due balances current.

If you have an existing past due amount, we ask that you contact your local Zia office immediately to make a payment arrangement. Any past due accounts without payment arrangements on May 6, 2021, may be subject to collection activities to include service disconnection.



New Mexico's Natural Choice...Zia Natural Gas Company
Proudly celebrating over 30 years of service
and looking forward to many more!

Zia Natural Gas Company area offices:

<p>Lincoln County 100 Short Drive Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346 575-378-4277 1-800-520-4277 (575) 378-4138 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 888 Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346</p>	<p>Hobbs/Jal 510 E. Bender Hobbs, NM 88240 575-392-4277 1-800-470-9900 (575) 392-8504 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 2220 Hobbs, NM 88241</p>	<p>Dona Ana County 3700 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88007 575-526-4427 1-800-453-5546 (575) 523-4945 Fax Mailing Address 3700 W. Picacho Ave. Las Cruces, NM 88007</p>	<p>Maxwell-Cimarron-Springer 316 Maxwell Ave. Maxwell, NM 87728 575-375-2277 1-800-520-4277 (575) 375-2753 Fax Mailing Address PO Box 357 Maxwell, NM 87728</p>
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