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(UT)

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Questar Gas asks Utah PSC to cut natural gas rates by \$28.4 million

SALT LAKE CITY — Questar Gas is requesting a decrease in its Utah natural gas rates. If the request is approved by the Public Service Commission of Utah (PSC), the annual bill for the typical residential customer will decrease by about \$21 beginning Nov. 1.

"Abundant natural gas supplies continue to reduce the price we pay for natural gas to serve our customers," said Craig Wagstaff, executive vice president and COO of Questar Gas. "We're maintaining rates that are among the nation's lowest while improving our distribution system and encouraging customers to conserve energy through our ThermWise programs."

The request includes the company's regular gas-cost-adjustment filing to cover costs of buying natural gas for its customers. These costs are passed on to customers with no markup and have no impact on the utility's profits. The "pass-through" adjustments simply enable the company to change rates to reflect changes in gas-supply costs. The request also includes costs related to conservation programs, a low-income assistance program and some system enhancements.

Wagstaff also reminded Questar Gas customers that funds may be available to help income-eligible customers who are elderly or disabled pay their gas bills. Customers can dial 211 for information about utility-assistance programs such as HEAT (Home Energy Assistance Target), a federally funded utility-assistance program, and REACH (Residential Energy Assistance through Community Help), which is funded by donations from Questar customers, employees and shareholders.

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