



CITY OF RENSSELAER

RENSSELAER, INDIANA

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City of Rensselaer Announces Temporary Gas Rate Adjustment Following Historic National Energy Crisis

RENSSELAER, IN — The City of Rensselaer is notifying residents of an upcoming adjustment to natural gas rates following the unprecedented and catastrophic impact of Winter Storm Fern. Due to extreme market conditions and record-breaking national demand, the cost of gas purchased by the City to ensure uninterrupted service in January was significantly higher than in previous months.

To manage these costs responsibly while protecting residents from a single, massive spike, the City will spread the rate increase over the next several months. **An adjustment of approximately \$0.2747 per 100 cubic feet will be applied to the next billing cycle.** The total impact on monthly bills will vary based on individual household usage.

A Historic National Event

The price increase is a direct result of "Winter Storm Fern," which kept temperatures in our region below freezing for more than 26 consecutive days. This extreme weather triggered a national energy crisis:

- **Record Withdrawals:** The EIA (Energy Information Administration) reported a withdrawal of **360 Billion Cubic Feet** from storage—the largest in U.S. history and 89% higher than the five-year average.
- **Supply Freeze-Offs:** The intense cold froze natural gas production at the source, knocking out over **10% of total U.S. daily production** during the peak of the storm.
- **Soaring Demand:** On February 1st, 230 million people were below freezing, forcing power plants to operate at all-time record levels to prevent widespread outages.

"Natural gas prices have been consistently low for a long time, but the severity of this storm forced the City to purchase additional supply at historic market highs to keep our community warm. "By spreading this increase over the coming months, we hope to minimize the immediate financial impact on our residents."

How Residents Can Help

The City reminds residents that the most effective way to minimize the impact on their utility bills is through conservation. To the extent you can do so safely, please consider:

- Lowering thermostats during periods of extreme cold.
- Ensuring windows and doors are properly sealed.

As temperatures begin to rise and the snowpack melts, market volatility is expected to stabilize. The City of Rensselaer remains committed to providing reliable utility services and appreciates the community's understanding during this challenging winter season.