

Nov. gas bills to rise on higher use, commodity prices

By Alicia Wallace (Contact)
Friday, October 17, 2008

Expected cold weather next month could cause Colorado residents' November energy bills to be nearly 80 percent higher than those in October, officials for Xcel Energy announced Friday.

In its monthly release on natural gas prices, Colorado's largest utility provider said "typical" residential customers are expected to more than double their natural gas use in November, leading to bills of \$78.47, based on projected use of 98 therms. The typical residential customers' bills compares to October's \$44.08 bills, on projected use of 48.7 therms, and the November 2007 bills of \$73.25, which were adjusted for the average expected use of 98 therms.

The November bills for typical small-business customers would be \$344.10, based on projected use of 456.6 therms, about 8 percent higher than November 2007 bills of \$319.76 on the same usage. October bills for small-business customers are projected to be \$200.39.

The expectations for November include a proposed 2 percent increase in Xcel's natural gas commodity price. Minneapolis-based Xcel said it proposed to increase the price to 49.9 cents per therm, from this month's 48.82 cents per therm.

If the Colorado Public Utilities Commission approves the increase, the new price would take effect Nov. 1.

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