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(WY)  
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### **Questar Gas Requests Rate Increase**

SALT LAKE CITY — Questar Gas is requesting a 9.5 percent increase in its Wyoming rates to reflect higher costs to purchase natural gas for its customers. If this request is approved by the Wyoming Public Service Commission (PSC), the average monthly bill for the typical residential customer will increase by \$9.23 on Oct. 1.

Questar Gas typically asks for PSC approval twice yearly – in May and September – to adjust rates to reflect changing supply costs, which are passed on to customers with no markup.

“We must purchase about half of the gas we distribute to our customers at market rates,” said Alan Allred, Questar Gas president and CEO. “We pass these costs for purchased gas on to our customers at our cost. Market prices for natural gas have increased significantly over the past year, driven by supply constraints and rising global oil prices. If there’s a silver lining for our customers, it’s that the other half of our supply comes from company-owned gas.

“Without our company-owned gas, our customers would be facing a 32 percent rate increase at this time,” said Allred. “Company-owned gas is delivered to our customers at ‘cost-of-service’ pricing, which means the costs of producing the gas instead of market prices. The cost to develop and produce company gas is considerably lower

and less volatile than the cost of gas we need to purchase from third-party suppliers.”

About 70 percent of a customer’s bill reflects the cost of the gas itself. The remainder consists of non-gas costs such as system maintenance and other expenses related to delivering gas to customers. These non-gas costs have remained stable for several years.

“We want what our customers want: reliable service at reasonable prices. With continuing upward pressure on prices, we’re doing all we can to manage our gas-supply costs,” said Allred.

The company is suggesting a few things to help cope with fluctuating gas prices. “We encourage customers to visit our Web site, [Questargas.com](http://Questargas.com), for energy-saving tips and to enroll in our Budget Plan. Our Budget Plan is designed to help spread the annual cost of natural gas service evenly throughout the year,” said Allred. “We encourage customers to use energy wisely by properly maintaining their equipment, making sure their insulation is adequate and considering proven technology such as setback thermostats.”

In addition, funds may be available to help income-eligible customers pay their gas bills. Customers may obtain applications for federal funds by calling LIEAP at (800) 246-4221. Another possible source is Energy Share of Wyoming, a program supported by voluntary donations from Questar Gas customers, employees and shareholders. Energy Share applicants must first apply for LIEAP. The program runs December through May or until funds are exhausted. For more information or to request an application, call the Salvation Army toll-free at (877) 461-5719.

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