

# the Citizens PIPELINE

May 2008

## Performance Sets Natural Gas Apart

Seven-out-of-ten new homeowners prefer the comfort and convenience of clean-burning natural gas because it performs far better in home uses than other energy sources like electricity.

### Heat

- Gas heat is warmer and more comfortable. - A natural gas furnace provides heat that's 20-40 degrees warmer than an electric heat pump, which typically produces cool to lukewarm air at the heat register. So a home heated with gas will feel warmer than one heated with an electric heat pump.
- Natural gas furnaces often last twice as long as electric heat pumps. - Because they operate year-round for heating and cooling, electric heat pumps typically must be replaced in 10-12 years. By contrast, natural gas furnaces often last about 20 years.
- Natural gas furnaces work better with a set-back or programmable thermostat than electric heat pumps. - With a natural gas furnace you can turn down your heat when you're gone and when you return, the gas furnace will heat your home to a comfortable temperature much quicker than an electric heat pump that produces cool to lukewarm air.



### Cooking

- 9-out-of-10 chefs prefer natural gas stoves over electric. - Gas stoves provide instant control of heat. So unlike an electric stove where you often must remove a pot of boiling water from the burner to prevent a mess, natural gas allows you to instantly reduce the heat.

### Water Heating

- Unlike electric water heaters, natural gas provides hot water when you need it. - So when someone in your family takes a long hot shower, the next person in the shower doesn't have to worry about a sudden rush of ice cold water like they would if the family had an electric water heater.

### Clothes Dryers

- Natural gas clothes dryers dry clothes faster and for less money than electric clothes dryers.

## Join Citizens Gas at Black Expo's Summer Celebration

Citizens Gas will be among many exhibitors at Indiana Black Expo's 38th Annual Summer Celebration July 10-20 at the RCA Dome and Convention Center. The Summer Celebration has been showcasing the achievements of African-Americans in the areas of culture, art, history and economics since 1971. Black Expo, Inc. is a year-round, multifaceted community service organization with 10 chapters around the State of Indiana.



## Koalas Sponsored by Citizens Gas

Two Queensland Koalas will be on exhibit at the Indianapolis Zoo from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day Weekend. This temporary exhibit - **Koala presented by Citizens Gas** - will be located in the Forests Biome between the Amur tigers and the Kodiak bears.

You can help to underwrite funding for the Koala's care through the Zoo's Animal Amigo program. Donations to the Animal Amigo program support food, medical treatment, equipment, enrichment toys and habitat improvement.

For more information about the Amigo program and zoo membership inquire at the zoo or online at: [www.indianapoliszoo.com](http://www.indianapoliszoo.com).

## Citizens Requests Rate Adjustment

Citizens Gas announced today that it has filed a general rate petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) seeking about a 4.5 percent increase in revenues for its gas distribution system serving about 265,000 customers in Marion County. The utility estimates the average residential customer's bill would increase approximately \$4.50 per month.

Any increase in base rates would not take effect for several months, pending review and approval of the rate petition by the IURC.

The rate adjustment would only apply to the Gas Delivery Charge on a customer's bill. The adjustment would not apply to the Gas Used Charge, which accounts for three-fourths of the customer's bills. Like all gas companies operating in Indiana, Citizens Gas passes on the cost of natural gas to customers on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

Citizens Gas requested the rate adjustment to recover ongoing capital investments and inflationary costs.

"Through disciplined efforts to hold down costs, we've been able to minimize base rate increases over the past 17 years. However, continued inflationary costs and capital investments, such as new pipelines, dictate that we adjust rates to recover current costs

of providing gas service. As always, we will remain vigilant about holding down costs," said Carey Lykins, President & CEO of Citizens Gas.

Lykins added that the utility is taking new efforts to hold down costs and help customers conserve energy. A pre-paid gas purchasing program will save customers \$24 million over the next 15 years. The utility's new rate structure is already funding an expanded weatherization program for low-income households and this fall the utility plans to offer rebates to customers who are purchasing new high efficiency natural gas equipment.

Citizens Gas also continues to fund financial assistance programs that help thousands of low-income customers pay their bills. "During the current winter heating season, Citizens Gas will have directly funded more than \$2 million in financial assistance to nearly 18,000 customers in need. Operating as a not-for-profit Public Charitable Trust, Citizens is focused on making its service affordable to all customers and helping customers in need," Lykins said.

More information about the base rate petition will be provided to customers via bill inserts, the company web site at [www.citizensgas.com](http://www.citizensgas.com), and at public hearings to be scheduled by the IURC.

### Chicken Tortilla Soup Recipe courtesy of Frasier's Gourmet Foods

#### Ingredients:

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 10 corn tortillas, chopped
- 1 large onion, diced
- 3 garlic cloves chopped
- 1 jalapeno, copped
- 5 cups chicken stock
- 1 15.25 oz. can chopped tomatoes
- ½ cup cilantro
- 4 cups shredded chicken
- 1 15.25 oz. can of corn, drained
- 1 15.25 oz can of black beans, rinsed and drained
- Juice of 1 lime

#### Directions:

In a large stock pot, heat oil. Add tortillas and cook until crispy. Add onions, garlic and jalapeno, cook 2 minutes. Add chicken stock, tomatoes and cilantro. Bring to a boil. Cook uncovered for 8 minutes. In 2 batches puree in a blender or use stick blender and puree until smooth. Stir in shredded chicken, corn, black beans and lime juice. Simmer for 5 minutes. Garnish with tortilla strips and cilantro leaves.

