



ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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Gas Utilities and Pipelines Present Arizona Corporation Commission with Winter Preparedness Plans

Arizona's gas utilities and pipeline companies presented their winter preparedness plans before the Corporation Commission today. Those plans included estimates for lower gas bills this winter.

The yearly workshop ensures that utilities and pipelines have proper supplies in place and emergency contingency plans ready to guarantee safe and reliable service across the state.

Southwest Gas, UNS Gas, Alliant Gas, Questar, Transwestern Pipeline, and Kinder Morgan submitted their plans this morning.

"These are important presentations that deal with issues that impact everyone in the state," said Chairman Susan Bitter Smith. "It is critical that these companies are prepared to safely and efficiently deliver the gas to customers and are ready to communicate effectively with their customers in emergencies."

Predictions of a milder winter along with sufficient supplies indicate many customers will see a reduction in their gas bill from last year.

Southwest Gas indicated that the average monthly bill this year will likely sit around \$55.89 compared to \$61.82 last year.

UNS, that serves Northern Arizona, also estimated lower bills for similar reasons. A representative with UNS also noted a recent customer credit that was recently approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission for some additional savings.

The companies outlined emergency plans that included social media campaigns and on-site emergency team deployment during outages.

The companies hold their own internal preparedness meetings on a regular basis. Often Corporation Commission Safety Division personnel are involved.

Questar representatives told the Commission that the number one cause for emergencies along the lines are because of third-party hits. The pipeline companies work with the Commission to draw attention to the Commission's "811 Program." That program helps people and companies locate critical underground utilities lines prior to digging to avoid any hits that could cause outages and serious injuries.

Copies of each company's plan can be found on the Commission's website at www.azcc.gov

Information on the 8-1-1 Program can be found at http://www.azcc.gov/divisions/safety/public_safety.asp.