

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

21 S. Fruit St., Suite 10
Concord, N.H. 03301-2429

CHAIRMAN
Thomas B. Getz

COMMISSIONERS
Graham J. Morrison
Michael D. Harrington

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AND SECRETARY
Debra A. Howland

TDD Access: Relay NH
1-800-735-2964

Tel. (603) 271-2431

FAX No. 271-3878

Website:
www.puc.nh.gov

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Contact: Amanda Noonan
Director, Consumer Affairs
(603) 271-2431

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**COMMISSION APPROVES BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR
LOW INCOME NATURAL GAS CUSTOMERS**

The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission approved a program today that will provide lower bills to low income natural gas customers for the upcoming winter. The program will be offered by KeySpan Energy Delivery and Northern Utilities and will be available to qualifying residential heating customers starting November 1.

Approximately 7000 customers are expected to see an annual benefit from the program of approximately \$200. Those customers will see a 50% reduction in the gas delivery portion of their bill. The discount does not apply, however, to the cost of gas portion of the bill. The Commission noted that the low income program proposed by Keyspan, Northern, Commission Staff, the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Governor's Office of Energy and Planning, the New Hampshire Community Action Agencies and New Hampshire Legal Assistance "is a worthy policy measure, particularly in a time of rapidly escalating energy prices."

Press Release
September 1, 2005

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To qualify for the bill assistance program, a customer's household must receive or be qualified to receive benefits from one of the following programs: Fuel Assistance Program; Electric Assistance Program; Supplemental Security Income Program; Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC); Commodity Surplus Foods Program (for women, infants and children); Elderly Commodity Surplus Foods Program; Temporary Aid to Needy Families Program (TANF); Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8); Head Start Program; Aid to Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD); Aid to the Needy Blind; Old Age Assistance; and Food Stamps. Customers of KeySpan Energy Delivery and Northern Utilities who believe they qualify for the program should contact their gas company directly at 1-800-262-4111 for KeySpan customers and 1-800-552-3043 for customers of Northern Utilities.

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