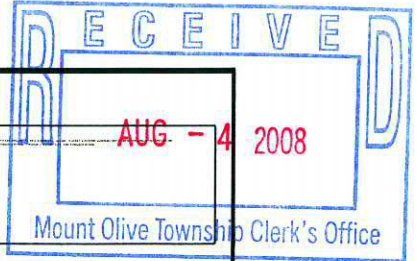


©

Lashway, Lisa

From: NJLM - Municipal Clerks [njlm-clerks@cityconnections.com]
Sent: Friday, August 01, 2008 3:55 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Municipal Clerks from NJLM



LEAGUE ALERT

Municipal Clerk: Please forward to Mayor and Governing Body.

8-1-2008
Re: I Increase in Gas Rates

Dear Mayor:

We have been informed by the Board of Public Utilities of potential natural gas rate increases for New Jersey ratepayers. As you are aware, the natural gas market has soared to monumental levels over the past several months.

The Gas Distribution Companies in New Jersey - Public Service, South Jersey Gas, New Jersey Natural Gas and Elizabethtown Gas - recover approximately 65 to 70% of the wholesale cost of natural gas from their residential customers. However, since the 1990's, the utility companies have been required by the BPU to stabilize gas price increases through hedging programs so that gas prices are lower than they would be otherwise.

Despite these efforts, the four utility companies have filed for rate increases due to the market's higher costs. These filings will increase the annual bills of residential ratepaying customers. The BPU is concerned about the impact of these rate increases on New Jersey families and will closely scrutinize these requests to ensure they are reflective of the marketplace. Therefore, the BPU has scheduled a series of public hearings to be held as follows:

**Monday, August 18, 2008 at
7:00 P.M.
Freeholder's Public Meeting
Room #540
Hackensack, NJ**

**Tuesday, August 19, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
Middlesex County Administration Building
Freeholder's Meeting Room
New Brunswick, NJ**

**Thursday, August 21, 2008
Board of Chosen Freeholders Board Room
Mt. Holly, NJ**

The BPU is launching an energy education campaign and wishes to partner with local officials in helping your constituents learn about the changes they can make to manage energy costs. If you are interested in discussing a partnership in your community, please contact BPU Outreach Manager Victoria Fisher at (973) 648-4361 or at Victoria.fisher@bpu.state.nj.us .

Very Truly Yours,

William G. Dressel, Jr.
Executive Director

NJLM
222 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

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