

Public Service Department Seeks Input on Vermont Gas's Proposed Rate Change and Alternative Regulation Plan

Public Hearing June 16, 2016

The Public Service Department is now reviewing filings made by Vermont Gas and formulating positions to present to the Public Service Board on behalf of ratepayers. We encourage public participation and want to hear from you. Your comments will help us better represent the public in the cases described below.

Vermont Gas Proposes Rate Change

Vermont Gas proposes to decrease rates by 3.3%. The proposal is made up of: (1) a rate increase of 13.8%, largely driven by Vermont Gas's request to include \$134 million of costs associated with the Addison Natural Gas Pipeline project in rates, and (2) a request to withdraw \$13.9 million of ratepayer funds from the System Expansion and Reliability Fund (SERF). The Vermont Gas Rate Case is Docket No. 8710 with the Public Service Board.

Concurrent Proceeding Evaluates Extension of Alternative Regulation Plan

Vermont Gas proposes to continue operating under an Alternative Regulation Plan for the next 3 to 6 years. The proposed Alternative Regulation Plan establishes a framework for regulating Vermont Gas's rates. It also sets forth a mechanism for the company to request future withdrawals from SERF. The Alternative Regulation Case is Docket No. 8698 with the Public Service Board.

Getting Involved: Call or write the Department of Public Service Consumer Affairs and Public Information Division (contact information below) to let us know what you think about the proposed rate change and alternative regulation plan. You can comment on either docket by attending and speaking at a hearing with the Public Service Board or provide written comments by email or mail to the Board. **The Public Hearing is scheduled for 7 PM on June 16, 2016 at Colchester High School in Colchester.**

SERF is Vermont Gas's System Expansion and Reliability Fund

The fund was created in 2011 for the purpose of facilitating further build out of the Vermont Gas system. Ratepayers contribute about 7¢ per unit of gas in their distribution charge. This charge will continue to raise about \$5 million annually. As of December 2015, the SERF balance was just under \$21 million of ratepayer funds.

Public participation matters; to be heard contact the

Vermont Department of Public Service
Consumer Affairs & Public Information

by phone at 800-622-4496 or email psd.consumer@vermont.gov

You can also write to us, our address is 112 State St., Montpelier, VT 05620-2601.

Useful Web Links

<http://publicservice.vermont.gov>

<http://psb.vermont.gov/docketsandprojects/gas/8698-8710>