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The Ticker: US ENERGY SAVINGS

U.S. Energy Savings' sales practices fraudulent, consumer groups allege

March 4, 2008

Three consumer activist groups filed a complaint Monday with the Illinois Commerce Commission alleging that natural gas supplier [U.S. Energy Savings Corp.](#) uses fraudulent sales practices.

The Citizens Utility Board, AARP Illinois and Citizen Action/Illinois want the state regulator to ban the Toronto-based company's sales tactics, fine it \$10,000 for each violation of the law and consider revoking its license to operate in the state.

CUB's claim: CUB said it has received 1,500 customer complaints about U.S. Energy Savings since January 2007. The group said U.S. Energy Savings salespeople posed as government employees, falsely guaranteed lower gas bills, and targeted senior citizens and non-English speakers.

The firm locks in customers' rate for as long as five years. CUB estimates that 99 percent of customers have lost money by switching from their regulated utility to U.S. Energy Savings.

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