



Stores 4,000 photos
Portable Digital Photo Album
Buy Now
Brookstone

Become a member | Log In
Portfolio | Forbes Magazine-77% savings
Make Forbes.com My Home Page
Bookmark This Page



Forbes.com Attaché

[Help](#) [Edit](#) [Detach](#) [Close](#)

Thursday March 26, 2009 12:51 PM EDT
[Weather](#) [Show ?](#)



Search: **Forbes.com** [Quotes](#) [Video](#) [Web](#) [Blogs](#) [Advanced](#)



U.S. EUROPE ASIA HOME PAGE FOR THE WORLD'S BUSINESS LEADERS Free Trial Issue
HOME BUSINESS TECH MARKETS ENTREPRENEURS LEADERSHIP PERSONAL FINANCE FORBESLIFE LISTS OPINIONS
[Video](#) [Blogs](#) [E-mail Newsletters](#) [Org Chart Wiki](#) [People Tracker](#) [Portfolio Tracker](#) [Special Reports](#) [Widgets](#) [CEO Network](#)



Want to Trade Forex?
Click HERE for a FREE Tutorial!

[Sports](#) [Show ?](#)

Watch List [Edit](#) [Hide ?](#)

- [GE](#)
- \$10.82
- \$0.33

- [BNI](#)
- \$62.33
- \$4.08

- [CSX](#)
- \$27.46
- \$1.66

- [PFE](#)
- \$14.31
- \$0.05

- [NSP](#)
- \$32.05
- 0.00

[BATS Exchange Real-Time Market Data](#)
by Xignite

Indexes		
DJIA	7,826.51	76.70
NASDAQ	1,563.58	34.63
S&P 500	824.88	11.00

Index values are delayed by at least 15 minutes

Watch List News [Edit](#) [Hide ?](#)

- [PREVIEW-Novo, Astra-BMS diabetes drugs face US grilling](#)
- [INTERVIEW-Brinker International eyes global growth](#)
- [Matt Lauer returns to chorus of jokes](#)

Events Calendar [Edit](#) [Hide ?](#)

01/19/10	CSX	Earnings Release
01/20/10	CSX	Conference Call
04/14/09	CSX	Earnings Release

Authors [Edit](#) [Hide ?](#)

- Laszlo Birinyi Jr.**
- [A Daily News Market](#)
- [Unchartered Waters](#)
- [The Forgotten Investor](#)
- Kenneth L. Fisher**
- [The Carry Trade Connection](#)
- [Five Ken Fisher Firecracker Picks](#)
- [The Media Monitor](#)

Keywords [Edit](#) [Hide ?](#)

- Kenneth Fisher**
- [San Francisco CA on Best Places For Business And Careers \(2009\)](#)
- [Family, friends gather for Natasha Richardson](#)

Associated Press

Ill. officials OK \$69M gas rate hike for Nicor

By SOPHIA TAREEN , 03.25.09, 04:56 PM EDT








The Illinois Commerce Commission approved a \$69 million rate increase Wednesday

for **Nicor Inc.** that officials said will add up to \$3 to the average residential customer's monthly bill.

The approval means the average customer will see an approximately \$2.50 increase on their bill starting in April, said Nicor (nyse: [GAS](#) - news - people) spokeswoman Annette Martinez.

Some of Nicor's more than 2 million northern Illinois customers could see up to a \$3 monthly increase, depending on usage and the season, ICC spokeswoman Beth Bosch said.

Article Controls

-  [EMAIL](#)
-  [REPRINT](#)
-  [NEWSLETTER](#)
-  [COMMENTS](#)
-  [SHARE](#)
- [YAHOO! BUZZ](#)

The approved rate hike was about half the original \$140 million the company requested last year. That would have pushed residential customers' gas rates up 5 percent, or about \$4.86 a month.

ICC officials said they reduced Nicor's 2008 request in areas including incentive compensation expense. In a statement, commission officials said Nicor "proved its case to collect a \$69 million increase."

Real-Time Quotes
03/26/2009 12:51PM ET

GAS **\$33.62** **0.00%**

Get Quote

BATS Real-Time Market Data by Xignite

Nicor's original request was criticized by many, including Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Citizens Utility Board, which planned to appeal Wednesday's decision.

CUB Executive Director David Kolata claimed the increase illustrated how "the needs of consumers are being overshadowed by corporate interests."

Comment On This Story

"It's difficult, if not impossible, to stimulate a struggling economy if consumers are dumping more and more of their hard-earned cash into their natural gas bills," Kolata said. "As lawmakers struggle to put more money back into consumers' pockets, today's decision just takes more out."

Related Stories

- [O'Shaughnessy's Keep-It-Simple Stocks](#)
- [United Arab Emirates on Best Countries for Business \(2009\)](#)
- [Cash Beats Even Buffett](#)
- [Americans' Top Hometown Spots](#)
- [George Kaiser on The World's Billionaires \(2009\)](#)

Related Videos

- [Global Stocks Up On Econ Hopes](#)
- [Earnings Surprise](#)
- [Best Places For Jobs, Business](#)
- [Lessons From Golf](#)
- [Stocks Try To Stay In Flight](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

A message seeking comment was left with Madigan's office Wednesday.

Nicor has defended its request, saying the company has sought rate increases only three times in 20 years.

"We kept our rate relief request to the minimum needed to maintain safe and reliable natural gas service to our more than 2 million customers," Martinez said.

She added that the company has among the lowest rates in Illinois and is competitive nationwide.

The increase does not apply to the cost of gas itself. It pays for the cost of delivering gas, which equals up to 20 percent of a customer's bill, Nicor officials said.

Copyright 2009 Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed

ADVERTISEMENTS

Top Solar Stock Pick - SSLR
Solar Company Heating up Texas. Investment Stocks Trading News
www.SunriseSolarCorp.com

Top Water Stock! -- CNFO
New water technology cuts desalination costs-will change industry!
www.CNFOWater.com

1 Tip to A Skinny Stomach
I cut down 36 lbs of body fat in just 3 months by obeying this 1 rule.
HelensDiet.com/Secret

[Buy a link here](#)

Layoff Tracker

BofA TARP Repay

Surviving The Solar Shakeout With Innovation

Street Gains

Rate This Story

Your Rating ☆☆☆☆☆ Overall Rating ☆☆☆☆☆

Reader Comments

Comment On This Story



Intelligent Investing | Data | Knowledge | Insight | Wisdom

Today On Forbes.com



Geithner's Gambit

Liz Moyer and Brian Wingfield
Treasury secretary asks Congress for broad new powers to seize founding non-bank financial firms.

- [We Need A New Insolvency Regime For Banks](#)
- [Geithner's Powerful Proposals](#)
- [Why The Street Loves Geithner](#)



[The Best Places For Business And Careers](#)



[Q4 GDP: Ho, Ho, Horrible](#)



[Wilbur Ross, Mortgage King?](#)



[Calling All Banker Bodyguards](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

[BATS Exchange Real-Time Market Data](#) by Xignite

Subscriptions

[Subscribe To Newsletters](#)

[Subscriber Customer Service](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

[SITEMAP](#) [HELP](#) [CONTACT US](#) [INVESTMENT NEWSLETTERS](#) [FORBES CONFERENCES](#) [FORBES MAGAZINES](#)

[Ad Information](#) [Forbes.com Mobile](#) [RSS](#)  [Reprints/Permissions](#) [Subscriber Services](#)
[Privacy Statement](#) [Terms, Conditions and Notices](#) [About Our Ads](#)
2009 Forbes.com LLC™ All Rights Reserved

Dow Jones industrial average, Nasdaq composite and S&P 500 indexes are real time and are powered by Xignite. All other indexes and commodities are delayed at least 15 minutes. All pricing is automatically refreshed every five seconds for the first two minutes the page is open, refreshed every 10 seconds for the third minute the page is open, and refreshed every 15 seconds thereafter.