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Nicor rate hike approved

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CHICAGO (WREX) - A \$69 million rate hike by Nicor Gas has been approved.

The increase was about half of the original \$140 million the company requested last year. An Illinois Commerce Commission spokeswoman says the rate increase means about a \$2 to \$3 monthly increase for residential customers.

The board's executive director David Kolata says consumers shouldn't have to spend their hard-earned cash on their natural gas bills, especially in rough economic times. Kolata says CUB will appeal the rate hike. "Today's decision is another example of how the needs of consumers are being overshadowed by corporate interests," said Kolata. "Illinois families are struggling to pay for necessities like food, rent, and medications, while Nicor's parent company made about \$120 million last year and will make even more because of this rate hike."

Naperville-based Nicor provides natural gas to more than 2 million in northern Illinois.



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