

# **Customer Choice in Illinois' Natural Gas Market**

**Are consumers saving money?**

**Prepared by the Citizens Utility Board  
December 2004**

## Customer Choice Price Survey

**Methodology:** CUB compared the prices of all alternative offers made to consumers from December 2002 through Nov. 14, 2004, the time period for which price data is available. CUB obtained the price data for each month the offer was available from the alternative suppliers. Those prices were compared to the monthly Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) on file with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for each utility for the same time period. Since prices of the alternative offers can change at any time, CUB collected price data on weekly basis. Each new price is listed as a separate offer. Only offers in effect for at least 12 months were included.

**Assumptions:** All plans begin on the first of the month after customer enrollment and expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of the month in which their term ends. If the plan is still in effect, the analysis examined prices through Dec. 31, 2004. CUB estimated a typical yearly usage of 1,325 therms and allocated therms for each month based on ICC data from 2000. The following table shows the usage and corresponding PGA price for each month of the study.

Month	Therms	Nicor PGA (\$/therm)	North Shore PGA (\$/ therm)	Peoples PGA (\$/therm)
Dec-02	200	0.49	0.5063	0.4624
Jan-03	250	0.54	0.4953	0.4892
Feb-03	250	0.55	0.5031	0.5097
Mar-03	150	0.83	0.6948	0.6928
Apr-03	100	0.67	0.6578	0.6529
May-03	25	0.63	0.577	0.5912
Jun-03	25	0.67	0.6246	0.6335
Jul-03	25	0.67	0.6167	0.6631
Aug-03	25	0.61	0.5684	0.5994
Sep-03	25	0.58	0.544	0.5716
Oct-03	100	0.55	0.511	0.5485
Nov-03	150	0.58	0.5578	0.5903
Dec-03	200	0.58	0.5441	0.5686
Jan-04	250	0.69	0.6104	0.647
Feb-04	250	0.6	0.5991	0.6196
Mar-04	150	0.55	0.5839	0.5886
Apr-04	100	0.59	0.6027	0.6214
May-04	25	0.59	0.6336	0.6347
Jun-04	25	0.72	0.6918	0.6701
Jul-04	25	0.72	0.7096	0.7193
Aug-04	25	0.65	0.7127	0.6884
Sep-04	25	0.62	0.6638	0.653
Oct-04	100	0.58	0.667	0.6733
Nov-04	150	0.74	0.798	0.798
Dec-04	200	0.7	*0.797	*0.7975

\* North Shore and Peoples December PGAs are preliminary.

