



# CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021

**CONTACT:** Jim Chilsen  
(o) 312-263-4282, (c) 312-513-1784

## STATEMENT BY CUB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DAVID KOLATA ON NORTH SHORE GAS RATE INCREASE

Given skyrocketing natural gas prices, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is heartened by the fact that we helped cut North Shore Gas' original rate-hike request by more than 60 percent. However, even with this victory, we are aware that a rate hike of any size is tough news to customers who are struggling to pay their bills during a time of pandemic, elevated energy prices and economic misery. We will continue to monitor the gas market and do everything we can to connect customers with information about how to reduce their utility bills.

### **BACKGROUND:**

-In October, North Shore Gas, a utility that serves about 165,000 customers in more than 50 suburbs north of Chicago, filed for a \$10.6 million (11.8 percent) rate hike (Docket 20-0810). That included an exorbitant 10 percent Return on Equity (ROE), or profit rate for shareholders.

-During the course of the 11-month rate case, North Shore accepted some adjustments, and whittled the rate-hike request down to \$6 million.

-The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) filed testimony on the return on the profit rate for shareholders and capital structure. The Attorney General's Office and Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) also filed strong testimony, and the combined work of consumer advocates led the judge to recommend a reduction in the rate-hike request.

-On Sept. 8, the ICC awarded North Shore an increase of \$4.084 million, which represents a 4.49 percent increase in delivery rates. The increase included a more reasonable ROE of 9.67 percent.

-The \$4 million increase was about 61.5 percent lower than the company's original rate-hike request.

*CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, it has saved consumers more than \$20 billion by helping block rate hikes, secure refunds and fight for clean, low-cost energy. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline, **1-800-669-5556**, or visit its website, [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).*

###