

# NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION

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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2012

### PRC Vote Sets Reduced Rate Increase for NM Gas Co.

**SANTA FE**—The Public Regulation Commission (PRC) voted 5-0 Tuesday to grant New Mexico Gas Co. a \$21.5 million rate increase that will take effect Feb. 1.

PRC staff along with the state Attorney General's office and several consumer interest groups worked to reduce the company's original proposed increase by about \$14 million to lessen the impact on low income residents.

The commission also rejected the company's proposal for retroactive billing that would have applied the new rate to January gas bills.

The case was decided on over a period of about two hours, during which commissioners heard recommendations from a PRC hearing examiner and the utility's legal staff.

"The commission thoroughly analyzed this case and made the best possible decision to ensure consumers across the state are treated fairly," said District 4 Commissioner, Theresa Becenti-Aguilar. "I am pleased to note that our vote will help protect low income residents."

The company said its ratepayers will see an increase of about \$38 to their annual gas bills, or about \$3.17 per month. This is the first time its charges have gone up since 2007.

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Visit the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission on the web at: [www.nmprc.state.nm.us](http://www.nmprc.state.nm.us) or call the PRC toll-free at 888-427-5772.

### About the NMPRC

The NMPRC regulates public utilities, telecommunications companies and motor carriers operating in New Mexico. It also administers the State Fire Marshal's Office, the New Mexico Firefighters Training Academy, the state's Pipeline Safety Bureau, and its Corporations Bureau. The NMPRC is also responsible for overseeing the New Mexico Division of Insurance and the DOI's superintendent.