

October 31, 2006

Alberta homes and businesses to receive natural gas rebates in November

Households will save \$27

Edmonton...Alberta consumers will save about \$27 on their November heating bills, thanks to Alberta's Natural Gas Rebate Program.

In November, the average Alberta residential consumer will receive a rebate of \$1.50 per gigajoule as a credit on their gas bill. This is the first month of the 2006-07 Natural Gas Rebate Program that Albertans will receive a rebate, which is triggered automatically when two of the three major gas companies charge regulated rates above \$5.50 per gigajoule.

"The rebate program offers guaranteed price protection for one million homes and businesses," said Greg Melchin, Minister of Energy. "As winter approaches and the temperature drops, Albertans can be assured that this made-in-Alberta program is available to provide protection against high heating costs."

Earlier this year, the province extended the Natural Gas Rebate Program for another three years until March 2009. Most Albertans receive the rebate directly on their natural gas bill. In addition to natural gas, rebates will be provided for heating with propane, kerosene, heating oil and in certain special circumstances, electricity. Users of these other fuels need to apply for rebates.

Rebate amounts increase as the price of gas rises, with the maximum cost of natural gas to most Alberta consumers capped at \$8.75/GJ. All eligible homes and businesses, regardless of whether they pay the regulated rate or are part of a competitive contract, receive rebates under the program.

More information on Alberta's Natural Gas Rebate Program can be found on the Alberta government's web site at: www.gov.ab.ca.

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Backgrounder attached.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

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Natural gas rates - November 2006

The following natural gas rates for the three regulated service providers in Alberta have been verified by the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board for November 2006. A rebate of \$1.50 per gigajoule will be applied to the natural gas bills of most Alberta consumers.

Regulated Gas Rates	November 2006 natural gas costs on consumers' bills (\$/GJ)
• Direct Energy Regulated Services North	\$6.947
• Direct Energy Regulated Services South	\$6.775
• AltaGas Utilities	\$7.652

For detailed information on the Alberta Natural Gas Rebate Program, go to www.gov.ab.ca

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