

Indiana Gas Users Could Get Refund of \$7 Million

About \$7 million dollars in refunds will be coming to Indiana Gas Co. customers if a new rate schedule filed today by the company is approved, but customers shouldn't expect a big drop in their monthly bills.

If the schedule is approved by the Public Service Commission, the average gas customer who doesn't heat with natural gas will receive a total cut of \$2.59 in his bill over the next year. Average Indiana Gas customer heating with gas would receive a total refund of \$11.68 distributed over the next 12 months.

The new rate schedule is designed to show refunds the company has received from Louisiana as a result of a U.S. Supreme Court decision in May and a lower

cost to the company than expected for gas from a supplier.

The rate reduction will become effective Sept. 1 if approved by the commission, Indiana Gas said.

The biggest chunk of the proposed refund — \$4.7 million — will come from a U.S. Supreme Court decision in late May ruling that Louisiana's tax on natural gas piped through the state was unconstitutional. Some of the gas Indiana Gas sells to its 300,000 customers comes from Louisiana.

An earlier estimate by Indiana Gas set its tax refund at about \$1.1 million.

The company estimated \$2.5 million will be refunded to Indiana Gas customers to reflect lower supplier prices than expected.

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