

Regulators make Indiana Gas charge less

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Indianapolis

Indiana Gas customers could see their heating bills dip slightly in the next two months due to an order issued Thursday by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

The commission ruled that Indiana Gas must set its rates for January and February at 3 to 4 percent less than the rates charged to

customers in December, said Mary Beth Fisher, IURC spokeswoman.

The order means Indiana Gas customers could see a decrease of \$5 to \$10 in this month's heating bills, Fisher said.

Typically, the commission allows companies to pass along to customers any increases in the wholesale gas price, which this year has risen sharply due to higher demand.

In December, the IURC issued an

interim order that had increased rates by 6 to 8 percent to allow the company to offset costs.

But the consumer counselor's office had argued that Indiana Gas officials did not do everything in their power to buy gas at the lowest price. In documents filed with the commission, the state agency said Indiana Gas put off purchases when prices were lower and shifted all price risk to customers.

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