

Gas company customers to get refund

Experts say prices likely to increase next year

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An agreement secured by consumer advocates will refund some money to customers after a winter of astronomical natural gas prices.

However, both the advocates and the local gas company warn that the worst may not be over.

"We've been told people can expect another 30 percent (price increase) next year," said Chris Williams, executive director of the not-for-profit Citizens Action Coalition. "It's a crisis."

In a settlement announced Thursday, the parent company of Indiana Gas Co. has agreed to pay \$5.25 million in benefits to its customers.

If approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the agreement with Vectren Corp. would provide an immediate one-month bill reduction for all Indiana Gas customers. Vectren also agreed to contribute money to Indiana's Low Income Heating Assistance Program.

Under the agreement, Indiana Gas customers would share \$3.3 million in rate reductions. The one-month credit of \$4 to \$6 would be provided in the next available month following approval of the agreement.

Vectren also agreed to contribute \$1 million to benefit low-income consumers in Indiana Gas territory

Under an agreement, customers of Indiana Gas will get a one-month credit of \$4 to \$6.

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2001-03-30 IGC customers to get 1-month credit of \$4.



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Wed, Nov 16,
2022