

# Pact may provide customer rebates

*Times-Mail*

After signing a recent agreement, Vectren Corp. will provide \$5.25 million in immediate benefits for Indiana Gas Co. and Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Co. customers.

The agreement must be approved by the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission. If approved, the contract will provide an immediate one-month bill reduction for all Indiana Gas Co. customers.

The credit will amount to \$4 to \$6 and will be provided in the next available month following approval of the agreement.

The settlement is a result of appeals filed with the IURC over the Jan. 4 decision that disallowed \$3.8 million of Indiana Gas Co.'s proposed gas cost increase for January

and February. If the agreement receives IURC approval, all appeals will be dropped and the rate reductions will take place immediately.

The agreement was reached between Vectren Corp., the parent company of Indiana Gas Co. and Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Co., and the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor and the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana.

In addition to the bill reduction, Vectren will make significant contributions to Indiana's Low Income Heating Assistance Program to help consumers in Vectren's service territories. Local community action agencies will distribute the LIHEAP funding.

A breakdown of the major benefits include:

- A \$3.3 million rate reduction

for all Indiana Gas Co. customers.

- A \$1 million contribution from Vectren to LIHEAP to benefit low-income customers in the Indiana Gas Co. territory.

- A \$700,000 contribution from Vectren to LIHEAP to benefit low-income consumers in SIGECO territory.

- A \$250,000 contribution from Vectren to matching funds for its Share the Warmth Program.

All of the contributions under the agreement would be made in addition to Vectren's existing low-income assistance commitments, which exceed \$940,000 for the two gas utility companies. The contributions and matching funds will be carried over to the 2001-2002 heating season if not completely used this year.

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