



## THE COST OF GAS

### Dear Customer

We feel your pain. The monthly gas bill has been higher this year than it has in the past fifteen years. (Surprisingly, we experienced the similar rates between Dec. 1, 2005 and Sept. 30, 2006.) What is going on? Can the gas company raise their rates without permission from the Public Service Commission?

Wyoming Gas Company can't raise its approved tariff rates without a hearing and approval from the Wyoming Public Service Commission (WYPSC). We have not changed our tariff rates since 2017. The piece that has changed dramatically is the Cost of Gas. The Cost of Gas is the price we pay to purchase and transport the natural gas to our system. The Cost of Gas is directly passed through to the customer; gas utilities are not allowed

to make or lose money on the cost to purchase and transport natural gas. The latest Cost of Gas was approved by the WYPSC in Docket No. 30009-76-GP-22 on September 27, 2022. As part of their analysis, the WYPSC reviews every invoice and contract to verify that only the allowed costs are included in the Cost of Gas. The new Cost of Gas went into effect for gas sold after October 1, 2022 which would have been seen on the bill received at the beginning of November.

Natural gas markets have fluctuated in the past 2 years due in part to tensions in Europe, tighter natural gas supplies, political uncertainty, and concern over another major price spike. To ensure reliability and to protect against major price spikes, we contract for a



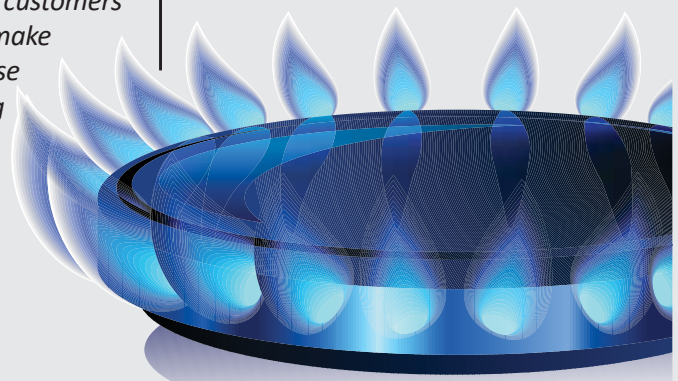
portion of our customer's volumes at a set price each year. At times the contract price may be higher or lower than spot market prices, but it does shield the customers from major price fluctuations and provides reliability of the gas supply.

In addition to higher market prices, a portion of the current Cost of Gas on your bill is related to the major natural gas price impact from Winter Storm Uri which hit Texas in February of 2021 but affected natural gas spot market prices in a large portion of the US. In Docket No. 30009-74-GP-21, the WYPSC approved collection of the purchase gas cost from this 7-day event to be spread over a 2-year period.

### Double Whammy

On top of a higher Cost of Gas, both November and December were exceptionally cold. In the gas industry, we measure heating degree days to better understand our customer's natural gas needs. In our service area, we were much colder than the 10-year average. That means our customers used more natural gas. So not only are prices higher but usage is also higher.

By rule, Wyoming Gas Company passes the Cost of Gas to its customers without markup; We don't make profit on the gas we purchase for our customers. Wyoming Gas Company is committed to providing reliable and economical natural gas service to all its customers.



february  
14<sup>th</sup>



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

**Recipe**  
DIRECTIONS

**Chicken  
Parmesan  
Stuffed Shells**

**Ingredients:**

1 package (12 ounces) uncooked jumbo pasta shells	2 tablespoons olive oil
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**Filling Ingredients:**

1-pound boneless skinless chicken breast, cut into ½ inch cubes	1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
1 ½ teaspoons Italian seasoning	½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 teaspoon salt, divided	½ cup 2% milk
½ teaspoon pepper, divided	¼ cup chopped fresh Italian parsley
1 tablespoon olive oil	4 cups meatless pasta sauce
2 tablespoons butter	¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
½ cup seasoned bread crumbs	8 ounces fresh mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced and halved
3 cups part-skim ricotta cheese	

**Directions**

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Cook shells according to package directions for al dente; drain. Toss with oil; spread in an even layer on a baking sheet.
2. For filling, toss chicken with Italian seasoning, ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat; saute chicken just until lightly browned, about 2 minutes. Reduce heat to medium; stir in butter until melted. Stir in bread crumbs; cook until crumbs are slightly toasted, 2-3 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool slightly.
3. In a large bowl, mix cheese, milk, parsley, and the remaining salt and pepper. Fold in chicken.
4. Spread 2 cups pasta sauce into 13x9 inch baking dish. Fill each shell with 2 ½ tablespoons cheese mixture, place over sauce. Top with remaining sauce and cheeses (dish will be full).
5. Cover with greased foil; bake until heated through, 10-15 minutes.

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday** – Thermopolis – Messiah’s Mall. 1:00 to 4:00 PM Open to the public. Free to everyone.

**First Friday of Every Month** – Thermopolis – Acoustic Jam Session. 5:30 to 7:00 PM HSC Senior Citizen Center. Free to everyone.

**First and Third Monday of the Month** – Thermopolis – Baby Steps. 9:00 to 10:00 AM Baby Steps Mom’s coffee group meeting to support pregnant and new moms. Contact Information 307-864-8014.

**Second Thursday of the Month** – Thermopolis – Dinner and a Movie. 6:00 to 7:30 PM HSC Library 344 Arapahoe St. Thermopolis

**February 11** – Basin – Friends of the Basin Library “Put Your Heart into Your Library Ice Cream Social”. 2023 Membership Drive and Renewal. Noon - 2 p.m. @ Big Horn County Library.

**February 14** – Thermopolis – Big Horn Basin Nature and Discovery Center. 5:30 PM. BHBNDJ Joint Powers Board meeting at Tumbleweed Propane. Contact Toddi Darlington (307) 921-4640.

**Reminder:** We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non-religious. Non-Profit organization messages will be given preference. Please send the information to [customerservice@wyogas.com](mailto:customerservice@wyogas.com) before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.

**Behind on your gas bill?**



**If you are behind on your gas bill, we can help!**  
**We offer payment arrangements to get you back on track!**  
**Call your local office to find out more!**

“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.” - Corrie Ten Boom

**How can residential natural gas consumers reduce their natural gas bills?**

**Consumers can reduce their natural gas bills in several ways:**

- Participate in WGC’s yearly budget plan to spread natural gas bills evenly throughout the year.
- Check natural gas space-heating equipment for efficient operation. Change the air filter regularly.
- Lower building thermostat settings, especially when buildings are unoccupied.
- Obtain an energy audit to identify other ways to reduce energy consumption.

**Federal government programs provide grants to state government agencies for energy assistance to households that have limited budgets:**

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) (LIEAP) distributes funds to states to help low-income households pay heating bills.
- Weatherization Assistance Program provides grants to states, territories, and some Indian tribes to improve the energy efficiency of the homes of low-income families.

Additional state energy assistance and fuel fund programs may be available to help households pay energy bills during winter emergencies. Consumers can find out if they qualify for assistance in their states by contacting the state public utility or service commission or by contacting the local natural gas utility.



*Proudly serving Wyoming for over 100 years!*

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*Wyoming’s Natural Choice...*

*Wyoming Gas Company  
Knowledgeable, Reliable, Local*



**Know what’s below.  
Call before you dig.**

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