

What Can You Do?

Natural gas rates are expected to continue to rise, and these higher prices are affecting everyone – even if you don't heat with natural gas. So what can we do? Together, we can make a difference:

- **Stick with safe, reliable and efficient Oilheat.**
The EIA is now reporting that **household heating oil expenditures are going to average 27 percent less than last year.** That's an estimate of more than \$630 saved per year!
- **Tell your legislators to stop pushing natural gas expansion** while there's insufficient distribution.
- Attend **Public Utilities Regulatory Authority hearings** to comment on the natural gas utilities' price increase requests.
- Consider **upgrading your heating equipment** to lower your energy usage.
- Call us, your local Oilheat dealer, for **more energy saving advice.**
- Visit the American Energy Coalition website to learn more about full service heating oil dealers and the truth about natural gas.



Get the facts about your energy supply. Visit
AmericanEnergyCoalition.org



Sources:

- ¹ *New Haven Register*, 11/7/14, "CL&P Seeks Another Rate Increase"
- ² *Hartford Courant*, 11/10/14, "United Illuminating Power Rate to Jump 54 Percent"
- ³ *The Connecticut Mirror*, 12/12/14, "Heating Bills Beyond More Households"
- ⁴ *Hartford Courant*, 12/12/14, "State Report: Expect Costs to Rise"
- ⁵ *WGBHNews.org*, 11/17/14, "Energy Future: New England May Face Scheduled Blackouts Due to Poor Natural Gas Supply"
- ⁶ *WFSB.com*, 11/17/14, "CL&P Stock Prices Up but Still Seeks Rate Hike"

Thank the Natural Gas Utilities



for Higher Electric Rates

Electric rates are rising in Conn. – with no sign of stopping – and all fingers point to natural gas rates.



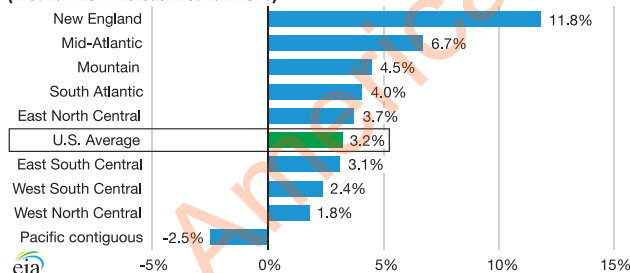
Pick up a paper. Turn on the news. Open your electric bill. **Connecticut electric rates are rising to unprecedented levels.**

- **Connecticut Light & Power is raising electric generation rates by 26 percent (about \$18 per month), and has asked for another \$10 per month increase** on its distribution rate.¹
- **United Illuminating rates are going up 54 percent (about \$33 per month).**²

Blame Natural Gas Distribution

That's right. **Your electric bill is going up because the natural gas distribution system can't meet the need in our area.** Meanwhile, the gas utilities are still pushing for more businesses and homeowners to convert to gas heat.

Change in average residential electricity prices by Census division (first half 2014 versus first half 2013)



(Chart courtesy EIA.gov, "Today in Energy" September 2, 2014)

Natural gas distribution is such an important issue that the six New England governors developed a plan to add a regional tariff to electric rates to expand the pipelines. That is on hold for the moment, but whether through tariffs or higher rates, electric customers are paying for the natural gas infrastructure.

These increases are making it nearly impossible for homeowners to pay their bills. A recent report determined that this winter, **Connecticut households may face charges as much as \$2,560 more than they can afford to pay.**³ It goes on to report that tight natural gas supplies will **continue to increase electricity bills through 2024.**⁴

Natural gas is now used to generate close to 50 percent of the region's electricity, and there's not enough pipeline to carry the gas into New England. On peak usage dates, electric companies and other large facilities can be ordered to switch to an alternate fuel, and **ISO New England is discussing the possibility of rolling blackouts** in the near future.⁵

Of course, **there's a profit issue at stake for the electric companies**, too. Even as CL&P is increasing rates to cover rising costs, the company is enjoying a record year on Wall Street, and is **expecting to increase its stockholder dividend by 6-to-8 percent, nearly twice the industry average ... thanks to the increase in rates for consumers.**⁶