
From: Sarah Pugh [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, December 8, 2021 9:42 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Natural Gas Pricing

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I am a resident of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. MidAmerican Energy supplies my natural gas for my home. Today I received my gas bill, \$121.15, average of \$3.67 per day for 77 Therm last month. Last year on my December bill I used 80 Therm for the month and my bill was \$57.21 with an average cost of \$1.84 per day. In December 2019, my average was \$1.76 per day for 112 Therm that month. So as you can see my Therm use is actually lower than years past and my bill has more than doubled due to outrageous natural gas price gouging.

This level of price gouging should be criminal/illegal for companies to charge. When I called MidAmerican to discuss my bill and the incredibly unaffordable pricing I was notified this was a national problem and I was told to either pay the bill or apply for heat assistance through the county. I went to the Minnehaha county website and reviewed the income guidelines. For a single person household, the maximum 3 month income is \$6,000. No single person that is working full time at an income that is actually paying their bills (rent/mortgage, utilities, car payment, health insurance, car insurance, ect) makes under \$2,000 a month/\$24,000 a year.

I grew up in extreme poverty, my whole family sleeping in one room next to a kerosene heater at times, wearing our winter coats to bed. I now live on a limited, but comfortable income and I still cannot afford these gas prices. I cannot imagine what people who make less than me, with more significant bills are experiencing with these price increases. Heat is a necessity, people cannot live without it and also should not live in fear of incredibly high gas bills. Sioux Falls/South Dakota needs our representatives to take this matter to the proper committees and help the working class. Utilities that we depend on for survival should never cost this much. This is actually a public health crisis. This kind of pricing will harm South Dakotans. People will cut out other expenses such as food and medicine to pay their energy bills.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I hope that you take this plea to heart and work to provide relief for struggling working class residents such as myself.

Sincerely,

Sarah Pugh

[REDACTED]
Sioux Falls, South Dakota