

# Midwest Energy, Inc.

# Current Comments

June 2021

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## Natural Gas Rate Changes Adopted After Changes, Residential & Commercial Rates Still Lowest in Kansas

During a virtual open meeting of the Board of Directors on May 17, Midwest Energy's Board of Directors approved several tariff changes.

Approved was a plan to recover excess gas costs from February 2021's Winter Storm Uri; adjustments to gas delivery rates; tariff changes that merge the M, K and T gas systems into a single system; and changes to reconnection fees for electric and natural gas customers. All changes will go into effect July 1, 2021.

### Winter Storm Uri Impacts

During Winter Storm Uri, Midwest Energy incurred roughly \$12.2 million in natural gas charges. Nearly \$9.7 million remains to be recovered. The Board approved a plan under which residential and commercial retail customers would pay a 14.3¢ per therm addition to the Gas Supply Cost Adjustment over a period of roughly 24 months. Average residential impact would be about \$8.27 per month, or \$200 total. The charge will appear on bills as part of the "Cost of Gas Com-

modity per Therm" charge. Agricultural customers (irrigation and grain dryers), which were not operating during the Winter Storm Uri period, and gas transport customers, are not included in the excess cost recovery plan approved by the Board.

Before approving the plan, the Board considered comments from 10 customers, many of which focused on a desire to pay off the excess charges in one month. Midwest Energy is not adding interest expense during the recovery period.

### Natural Gas Rate Case

The Board approved adjustments to natural gas delivery rates in a matter originally scheduled for consideration in May 2020 (but suspended due to the pandemic), which will result in a net revenue increase of \$1.04 million to the company compared to current rates. The increase will support pipeline safety, reliability improvements and operating expenses.

The new delivery rates would result in an average residential bill increasing by approximately 98¢ per month compared to currently effective rates based on 2020 gas usage. *Continued*

## Treat All Downed Power Lines as Energized

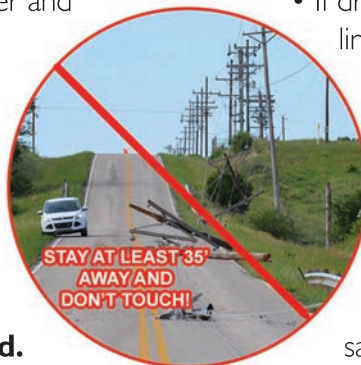
In June of 2013, Nicholas Moeder and his friend, Stuart Rangel, went to play disc golf following a storm that raged through Shawnee, Kan., earlier in the day. Playing in the dark, they had no idea a live wire was on the ground. Moeder, a 27-year-old Shawnee man tripped over and became entangled in the live downed power line. Rangel tried pulling Moeder free but kept getting shocked. Nicholas Moeder was pronounced dead at the scene; Rangel was alive but injured.

When major storms knock out power, linemen take precautions before they work on any downed lines. **If you see downed lines, always assume they are energized.**

• Never touch or try to move a downed power line, or anything touching the line like a tree limb. Also, avoid stepping in water near a downed line. Call Midwest Energy at (800) 222-3121 to report a downed power line.

If you see someone who is in contact with a downed line, don't touch the person; call 911 for help.

- The ground around downed power lines - up to 35 feet - may be energized.
- If driving and you come upon a downed power line, do not drive over or near the line. This can entangle your vehicle and pull down poles or other items along its path.
- If you're in a car that becomes tangled in downed lines, stay put and call 911, and warn anyone from touching the car. If you must exit due to fire, jump free from the car and land both feet on the ground at the same time. Move away from the downed car by shuffling away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. Avoid lifting your feet until 35 feet away. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.



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# Board of Director Nominations Due July 9

As a cooperative, Midwest Energy's Board of Directors is comprised not of shareholders, but of customers. Now is the time for members to submit nominations for anyone interested in running for Midwest Energy's Board of Directors. All nominees should be informed before their names are submitted for consideration. Director positions and represented districts up for re-election include:

**District 3** (1 position): Counties of Barton, Ellsworth, Osborne, Phillips, Reno, Republic, Rice, Rooks, Rush, Russell and Smith.

**District 4** (1 position): Counties of Ellis, Graham and Trego.

**District 5** (1 position): Counties of Edwards, Finney, Grant, Gray, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Kiowa, Lane, Ness, Pawnee, Pratt, Scott and Stafford.

Nominees for these positions must be a resident in one of the counties in the district for which he or she is nominated for at least one year. Nominations should be submitted online by July 9, 2021 at [www.mwenergy.com](http://www.mwenergy.com) by clicking on "About" and completing and submitting the Nomination Form, or in writing with name, address and phone number to:

Keith Miller  
c/o Midwest Energy, Inc.  
1330 Canterbury  
Hays, KS 67601

The nominating committee will select nominees from the names submitted. Winners of the election to the Board of Directors will be announced at the Annual Meeting, held on October 18, 2021.

## Rent, Utility Assistance Available for Kansas Renters

The Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance (KERA) program provides rent, utility, and internet access assistance to households experiencing financial hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic. Funded through the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, Kansas received nearly \$200 million in federal funding for the program.

Landlords and tenants apply via a joint online process. If the application is approved, the landlord or utility provider receives funds directly from KERA and

applies KERA funds to the applicant's account. Approved applicants are eligible for up to 12 months of assistance.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet all of the following criteria: Rent their home; 2020 household income didn't exceed 80% of area's median income; at least one household member with documented hardship as a result of the COVID pandemic, as well as other criteria. To learn more, or to apply, landlords and renters should visit <https://kera.kshousingcorp.org/kera#>.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



## Gas Rate Changes Adopted; Rates Remain Lowest in Kansas

The changes increase the monthly residential customer charge from \$18 to \$19 and the delivery rate from 13.5¢ per therm to 16¢ per therm, while eliminating the \$1.42 monthly Gas Infrastructure Rider. Even with the proposed changes, Midwest Energy's residential and commercial gas delivery rates remain the lowest in Kansas.

Additionally, the Board approved several changes to natural gas tariffs, including the merging of the M, K and T gas systems into a single system.

### Electric and Gas Meter Reconnection Fees

The Board approved a change in re-

connection fees for electric and natural gas customers. Currently, the fee for reconnection for the first meter is \$15, and \$5 for additional meters on the same location. The Board approved changing the fee to a flat \$15 per meter.

Charts of bill impacts, and a summary of tariff changes, is at [www.mwenergy.com/residential/gas\\_rate\\_changes\\_2021](http://www.mwenergy.com/residential/gas_rate_changes_2021).

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1-800-222-3121  
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