



505 Nicollet Mall
P.O. Bo 59038
Minneapolis, MN 55459-0038

February 4, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to inform you that Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly is holding four public hearings on CenterPoint Energy's rate increase proposal. For more on the public hearings, please see the enclosed copy of our Notice of Public Hearings for CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Customers.

Please contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information about the filing. Additional information about our Rate Case is available at our website at CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase.

Sincerely,

Seth DeMerritt
Manager, Regulatory
612-393-6216

Enc.
Notice of Public Hearings for CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Customers

RATE INCREASE NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

CenterPoint Energy has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve an increase to natural gas rates for distribution service. The requested increase is for about 6.5 percent or \$67.1 million per year. The requested increase would add about \$4.05 to a typical residential customer's monthly bill.

The MPUC may either approve or deny the requested changes, and may approve a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any customer class or classes of service.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on our rate request in the fourth quarter of 2022. If final rates are lower than interim (temporary) rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at www.missingmoney.com. To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will hold two in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on the company's request. Any CenterPoint Energy customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of CenterPoint Energy's service, the level of rates, or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney. The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Date	Time	Location
February 22, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Golden Valley Library 830 Winnetka Ave N Golden Valley, MN 55427
February 24, 2022	6:00 p.m.	EVENT CENTER 10 Civic Center Plaza Mankato, MN 56001
March 1, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
March 1, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled – call (toll free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Virtual Public Hearings

Public hearings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.

March 1, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)

To join the virtual hearing using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: <https://minnesota.webex.com>. In the gray box where it says, "Enter Meeting Information," type the Event Number below for the public hearing date you are attending:

March 1, 2022 1:00 p.m.	March 1, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Event Number: 2492 340 7866	Event Number: 2483 405 3637
Event Password, if needed: MnPUC!	Event Password, if needed: MnPUC!

Directions for Appearing via WebEx.

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click "Join Now" and you will be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it is your time turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

To Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the hearing via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the hearing, however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box below to dial into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing, as set forth below:

March 1, 2022 1:00 p.m.	March 1, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Phone: 1-855-282-6330	Phone: 1-855-282-6330
Access Code: 2492 340 7866	Access Code: 2483 405 3637

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the hearing, **press *3** on your telephone. You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of

your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

Public Hearing and Process Information

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations after the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, interested persons have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff; and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed on the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is advantageous to arrive at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Please contact Charley Bruce at 651-201-2251 or charley.bruce@state.mn.us or Tera Dornfeld at 651-201-2195 or tera.dornfeld@state.mn.us if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet.

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing.

Comment Period

Comments accepted through **April 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**

- *Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.*
- *Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.*

How to Submit a Written Comment

Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the Commission's eComments website; (2) electronic mail; (3) U.S. Mail; or (4) facsimile. To learn how to submit a comment in any of these ways, please visit mn.gov/puc, select "Consumers" from the dropdown menu on the top of the page, then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Public Comment page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference PUC Docket No. 21-435 in the subject line of your comment.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may send or deliver your comment to:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Ste. 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

For assistance in submitting comments, or if you have questions, contact the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at:

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Be sure to reference Docket Number 21-435

Important: Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information or any other information from comments received.

EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Formal evidentiary hearings on CenterPoint Energy's proposal will be held on **April 6, 7, and 8, 2022**, starting at **9:30 a.m.** each day. The evidentiary hearing will be held in Courtroom 1 **at the Office of Administrative Hearings at 600 South Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota**. Individuals who cannot attend in person, may attend via Microsoft Teams (Teams), a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through Teams may request an electronic invitation by contacting Judge O'Reilly's legal assistant at michelle.severson@state.mn.us.

The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to allow CenterPoint Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities Division, and parties who have formally joined the contested case, to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed rate increase.

If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, you must serve and file a Petition to Intervene, pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.6200.

TO LEARN MORE

CenterPoint Energy's current and proposed rate schedules are available at:

CenterPoint Energy

505 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis MN 55402

Phone 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377

Web <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase>

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-539-1534

Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> Select (21) in the year field, type (435) in the number field, select *Search*, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

Questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review process?

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay.

Proposed Rate Increases

The table below shows the effect of both the interim and proposed rate changes on monthly bills for residential, commercial and industrial customers with average natural gas use.

Customer Type (usage in therms)	Avg monthly usage in therms	Avg monthly bill: current rates	Avg monthly bill: interim rates	Avg monthly bill: proposed rates
Residential	74	\$68	\$71	\$72
Commercial/Industrial				
up to 1,500/year	67	\$69	\$72	\$80
1,500 to 5,000/year	255	\$210	\$219	\$230
5,000 or more/year	1,440	\$1,096	\$1,131	\$1,136
Small Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service				
up to 120,000/year	3,971	\$2,310	\$2,382	\$2,482
120,000 or more/year	15,567	\$8,903	\$9,152	\$9,490
Large Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service	42,091	\$23,466	\$23,981	\$24,403
Large General Firm Sales Service	41,602	\$23,085	\$23,776	\$24,480
Demand charge (per Peak Day)	3,110			

*Figures above are rounded (to the nearest whole number).