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# Press Release

## MG&E gas customers get another decrease

### 2<sup>nd</sup> drop in Gas fuel charges in a month will help as heating use soars during near-record cold.

Middleborough, MA, February 1, 2011: Natural gas customers will be getting another dose of relief this month as the Middleborough Gas & Electric Department drops gas fuel charges for the second time since the new year. Department officials announced that, effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, the Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) charge will drop from 96.24 cents per ccf (hundred cubic feet) to 92.24 cents per ccf, making the typical average winter heating bill of 275 ccf equal \$432.38, resulting in additional savings of \$11 per month. Added to last month's decrease, the savings total about \$20 on the monthly heating bill for the typical residential customer.

The decrease will mean lower average costs for the gas used to heat a home but total bills may still be higher than last winter by comparison. Record setting cold at the end of January and relentless winter storms have caused record high use in the past two weeks, according to department records. MG&E hit a new peak "send-out" of 297 thousand cubic feet (mcf) of natural gas on the morning of January 25<sup>th</sup> when temperatures dropped to 3 degrees below zero. The new peak is 15 Mcf higher than the previous record set on a morning in 2004 at 8 degrees below zero.

The department is warning customers that this month's bills may be much higher than February of last year, even with the PGA decrease because that February was one of the warmest on record. "Customers caught a break from Mother Nature last year," said Sandy Richter, the department's Public Communication Manager. "Mother Nature is a little testy this year but we're glad this second drop is coming at the right time."

MG&E serves over 15,000 electric customers in Middleborough and Lakeville and over 5,000 natural gas customers in Middleborough.

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