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CITY LINE OF CULBERTSON PROPOSES PROPANE RATE INCREASE

City Line, the company that provides propane distribution service in Culbertson, has requested state Public Service Commission approval of a 48-percent increase for residential customers and a 3-percent increase for the school district in Culbertson.

If City Line's request is approved, the average monthly bill for the company's 326 residential customers in Culbertson will increase from about \$65 to about \$97. The school rates would increase from an average of \$438 per month to \$451. According to City Line, the rate increases are necessary because revenues produced by current rates are not sufficient to cover the company's rapidly rising costs to provide propane service.

Citing dramatic fluctuations in propane costs, City Line is also requesting PSC approval of a propane cost tracking adjustment procedure, which would allow monthly adjustments to rates based on changes in propane costs, accrual of costs that are not reflected in rates, and an annual true-up.

Customers may request a public hearing on this rate request by filing a request for hearing no later than September 19 with the PSC, 1701 Prospect Ave., PO Box 202601, Helena MT 59620-2601. The Montana Consumer Counsel is available to represent the interests of consumers in this matter. The MCC's phone number is 406-444-2771.

Persons who do not want to request a hearing but wish to comment on the proposed rate increase may send written comments no later than September 19 to the PSC, either by mailing them to the address above, or by submitting them electronically on the PSC's public comment form at <http://psc.state.mt.us/PublicComment/PublicComment.htm>.

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