

LEGAL NOTICE

On April 16, 1991, COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY ("Company") filed with the DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ("Department") for an increase in its total annual revenue of approximately \$27.7 million. The Department docketed the matter D.P.U. 91-60.

The Department suspended the effective date of the proposed rates in order to investigate the propriety of the increase sought by the Company. Therefore, **THE PROPOSED RATES DO NOT GO INTO EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.** Current rates will remain in effect until October 31, 1991, the date by which the Department must render a decision in this matter.

If approved, the rates as proposed by the Company would:

- Result in an 11.3 percent increase in the Company's annual revenue from the Company's average revenue, normalized for weather variation; and
- Increase monthly bills between \$2.48 and \$6.20 to residential customers without gas heat using between 4 one-hundred-cubic feet ("Ccf") and 42 Ccf per month in the summer off-peak period, or between \$2.10 and \$5.83, during the winter peak period; and
- Increase monthly bills between \$2.78 to \$6.03 and residential customers with gas heat using between 9 Ccf and 35 Ccf per month in the summer off-peak period, or between \$6.83 and \$21.23 for a residential gas heating customer using between 97 Ccf and 387 Ccf during the winter peak period.

The Company also proposed that the Department approve changes in the Company's rate design. The proposed rate design changes include:

- Changing the unit of gas sold each month from Ccf to an "average therm rate."
- Expanding eligibility for the Company's SSI rate by including low-income customers receiving federal fuel assistance.
- Basing rates for commercial and industrial customers on customer size and load factor.

THE DEPARTMENT INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE RATE INCREASE SOUGHT BY THE COMPANY. A PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES ON THE FOLLOWING EVENINGS:

Wednesday, June 12, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.
Lower Nevins Hall in the Memorial Building
Concord Square, Framingham, MA

Thursday, June 13, 1991 at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting Room in the Buttonwood Library
745 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA

For further information, please call Commonwealth Gas Company, at 1-(800)-572-9300 (business address: 157 Cordaville Road, Southborough, MA 01772) or send your written comments to Mary L. Cottrell, Secretary of the Department of Public Utilities, 100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA 02202.

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

May 9, 1991

D.P.U. 91-60

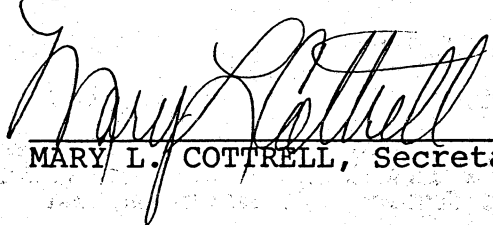
COMMONWEALTH GAS COMPANY

ORDER OF NOTICE

In compliance with D.P.U. 1364/1717 dated May 3, 1985, Commonwealth Gas Company is required to publish the attached legal notice in the Worcester Gazette, the New Bedford Standard Times, The Middlesex News (Framingham), and the Boston Herald, once at least twenty-one (21) days prior to June 12, 1991, and again (7) days prior to said date.

Commonwealth Gas Company is also required to make return of service and publication at the time of the hearing.

By Order of the Department,


MARY L. COTTRELL, Secretary

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CONSENT COMMUNICATIONS

Notice of a public hearing by the DPU
at various times and locations to investigate the propriety of the increase in
rates sought by the Commonwealth Gas
Company.

In City Council,

May 20, 1991

*Referred to the City
Manager
Copy sent to City Mgr
May 21, 1991*