



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Columbia Gas bills get new look *Features include weather information, easier-to-read format; Columbia web site to have preview, demonstration*

LEXINGTON, Ky. – February 14, 2006 – Columbia Gas of Kentucky customers will soon see something different in their mailboxes – a bill with a new look and more useful information. Bills mailed beginning February 21 will use the new format.

“The new bill format includes information – presented both graphically and numerically – that will help customers monitor their natural gas bills,” said Joseph W. Kelly, president of Columbia Gas of Kentucky. “Our goal is to give our customers more information about weather, their usage and how that affects their bill, and to do it in a more user-friendly way.”

The new bills include a number of improved features such as:

- A larger format, which allows for account information to be printed on both sides of the bill.
- The type of service (residential or commercial) is clearly identified at the top of the bill.
- The Billing & Payment Summary appears at the top center for customers who just want to know their account status at a glance.
- If there’s an unpaid balance, the “Amount Due Immediately” will be identified separately from the amount due and due date for current charges.
- For customers on a billing plan, an Actual Account Status section will appear in the Billing & Payment Notes to show the cumulative actual account balance as the amount they’re ultimately responsible to pay if they go off the plan.
- Service Summary Notes include an average daily comparison of temperatures and usage for the current month, the previous month, and the same month last year, as well as the customer’s total annual consumption and average monthly usage.
- Bar graphs of gas use history will give customers a visual comparison of their consumption for the past thirteen months, and will include the amount used each month and the number of billing days in each cycle.
- Customer CHOICESM bills will provide full supplier contact information.

Beginning February 21, customers are encouraged to log onto www.columbiagasky.com and click on DirectLink e-Services to view a short, automated presentation that has been developed to provide them with an overview of the new bill’s features. Customers also can register their account to view copies of their bills for the past 24 months and compare the impact of the cost of gas and their consumption on their total bill. To register an account, customers must have their account number, as well as the primary account holder’s Social Security number. There is no charge to register an account.

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Columbia Gas of Kentucky, headquartered in Lexington, is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). Columbia Gas of Kentucky serves approximately 140,000 customers in 31 Kentucky counties. NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about Columbia Gas of Kentucky is available at www.columbiagasky.com.

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Editor's note: Artwork of the new Columbia bill is available and can be requested by contacting Lisa Smith at 859-288-0245.