



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 written comment, visit mn.gov/puc/, select "Get Involved" from the dropdown menu at the top of the page and then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Commenting in a PUC Docket page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference PUC Docket Number 23-173 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 23-173

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

The purpose of the evidentiary hearings is to allow CenterPoint, the Minnesota Department of Commerce, 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.

Formal evidentiary hearings on CenterPoint's proposal will be held on **Dec. 18, 19, and 20**, starting at **9:30 a.m.** each day. The evidentiary hearings will be held in Public Utilities Commission Small Hearing Room, 121 7th Place, St. Paul, Minnesota. The parties may stipulate to some witnesses appearing via Microsoft Teams.

The parties shall arrange with Commission staff to obtain a video conference link. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing may do so in person. If they would like to attend virtually through Teams, they may request an electronic invitation by contacting Judge O'Reilly's legal assistant at michelle.severson@state.mn.us.

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 MN Rules. 1400.6200.

TO LEARN MORE

Current and proposed rate schedules for CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas are available at:

CenterPoint Energy
505 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377
Web: 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 23 in the year field, type 173 in the number field, select Search and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

The MPUC is asking customers to comment on CenterPoint Energy's request for a rate increase. Send comments to the MPUC's Consumer Affairs Office (CAO) or contact the CAO for assistance with submitting comments:

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

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

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

Customer Type (usage in therms)	Average monthly usage in therms	Average monthly bill: current rates	Average monthly bill: 2024 interim rates	Average monthly bill: 2024 proposed rates	Average monthly bill: 2025 interim rates	Average monthly bill: 2025 proposed rates
Residential	74	\$75	\$79	\$81	\$81	\$81
Commercial/Industrial	66	\$80	\$85	\$89	\$89	\$92
		244	\$231	\$242	\$249	\$259
	• up to 1,499/year	1,526	\$1,263	\$1,311	\$1,312	\$1,339
	• 1,500 to 4,999/year	3,757	\$2,459	\$2,558	\$2,598	\$2,653
	• up to 120,000/year	14,944	\$9,411	\$9,752	\$9,992	\$10,226
	• 120,000 or more/year	37,597	\$22,216	\$22,870	\$23,437	\$24,131
Large Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service		39,084	\$38,825	\$40,246	\$40,970	\$41,349
Large General Firm Sales Service						

The chart below shows an example of the current and proposed rates for each customer type.

RATE INCREASE NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

CenterPoint Energy Minnesota Gas has requested approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas distribution service rates in 2024 and 2025. The requested increase is approximately 6.5% or \$84.6 million for 2024 and approximately 3.7% or \$51.8 million for 2025. The requested increase will add about \$5.91 to a standard monthly bill of a residential customer in 2024 and an additional \$2.58 to a standard monthly bill of a residential customer in 2025.

Continued inside...



CenterPoint is requesting this rate change to accommodate the increased expense to operate, maintain and deliver natural gas through our distribution system. CenterPoint continues to make meaningful investments to support the advancement of low and zero-carbon technologies and maintain the safety and integrity of its natural gas distribution system that benefits our customers and communities. These investments include infrastructure projects to replace or upgrade existing pipelines, provide safe and reliable service and comply with federal pipeline regulations.

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

The MPUC will likely decide on the requested rate increase by early 2025. If final rates are higher than interim rates, customers will not be charged for the difference during the time the customer is billed for the interim rate. The customer may be charged for the difference between a lower interim rate and a final higher rate beginning on the date that final rates are ordered by the MPUC.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will hold four in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on the company's request. Any CenterPoint customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of CenterPoint'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 end after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Public hearings schedule

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2024	6 p.m.	Hennepin Technical College 9000 Brooklyn Blvd., Room 193/195 Brooklyn Park, MN 55445
Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024	6 p.m.	Blue Earth County Historical Society 424 Warren St., Room A Mankato, MN 56001
Monday, Oct. 21, 2024	6 p.m.	University of Minnesota Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC) 2001 Plymouth Ave. N., Room 105 Minneapolis, MN 55411
Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024	6 p.m.	Central Lakes College 501 W. College Drive, Room C236 Brainerd, MN 56401
Friday, Oct. 18, 2024	1 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024	6 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/psc/.

Virtual Public Hearings

Virtual public hearings have been scheduled for the following dates and times:

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, at 1 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)

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

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 1 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 6 p.m.
2496 344 9575 Password: CPE# (2730 when dialing from a phone or video system)	2493 567 4629 Password: CPE# (2730 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Directions for Commenting Through 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.
- Then, enter your name, email address and an event password (if required). Click "Join Now" to 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 comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. You will be placed in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will be able to ask questions or comment on the proposal.

Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)

You do not need internet access to join the hearing by telephone. 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 call into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing:

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024 1 p.m.	Thursday, Oct. 24, 2024 6 p.m.
Phone: 855-282-6330 Access Code: 24963449575	Phone: 855-282-6330 Access Code: 24935674629

If you would like to ask a question or comment during the hearing, press *3 on your telephone. You will 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 by all participants.

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 in the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is best 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.

Contact Ashley Marcus at 651-201-2192 or ashley.marcus@state.mn.us if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing remotely.

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing. Comments will be accepted through **Dec. 20, 2024, 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.

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