



# CITIZENS UTILITY BOARD

Fighting for Illinois Consumers

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## **CUB REACTS TO ICC MAKING SIGNIFICANT CUT TO NICOR GAS RATE HIKE**

Any heating bill increase is too much for Nicor's 2.3 million customers, who have been hit with four previous rate hikes in the last eight years – a period when profits for the utility's parent company have totaled an astronomical \$25 billion. It's beyond troubling that a corporation getting so fat on its own prosperity continues to demand ever greater financial sacrifices from its customers.

Against this backdrop, we're thankful that state regulators responded by derailing Nicor's bid to raid consumers for costs that were blatantly inflated and unwarranted. In shrinking Nicor's requested \$314 million increase by about half, the ICC's ruling today exceeds the reduction recommended by two administrative law judges last month by an ample margin and reaffirms the Commission's commitment to holding utilities accountable for every expense they attempt to charge consumers.

With winter heating season in full force, and prices for groceries and health care putting a squeeze on household budgets, conditions for consumers are extremely fragile. We urge state regulators to continue to crack down on profit-mongering by Illinois's gas utilities so no one is forced to choose between paying for fuel to heat or food to eat.

### **Background:**

- On Nov. 19, 2025, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) issued a final order in Nicor Gas' request for a state-record \$314.3 million rate hike ([Docket #25-0055](#)). The order reduced Nicor's rate hike by 47 percent, or \$146.5 million, making the final increase \$167.8 million.
- Among the proposals in Nicor's rate-hike request, CUB challenged the utility's attempt to capture an outrageous 10.35 percent Return on Equity (ROE), or profit rate for shareholders. The ICC's final order reduced the ROE to 9.6 percent.
- This is Nicor's fifth rate hike since 2017. Between 2017 and 2024, the utility has raised delivery rates by 114 percent, totaling \$747 million, and its parent, Southern Co., has raked in about \$25 billion in profits. Today's increase adds to the total rate hikes since 2017.
- This increase impacts delivery rates, which take up about a third to a half of gas bills. It's what Nicor charges customers to cover the costs of delivering gas to homes—plus a profit.

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- **Warning:** Even customers who pay an alternative gas supplier still pay Nicor's delivery charges. So customers should beware of any sales representative who says they can avoid the rate hike by going with an alternative supplier. All Nicor customers pay these higher rates.
- Customers having trouble paying their bills should contact their utility to find out about assistance available, and the Help Illinois Families call center, at 1-833-711-0374, to learn more about the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).
- Nicor is Illinois' largest gas utility, serving 2.3 million residential, public sector and business customers.

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For more than 40 years, the **Citizens Utility Board (CUB)** has been Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog group. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Since then, CUB has helped save consumers more than \$20 billion by blocking rate hikes and securing refunds. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline, at 1-800-669-5556, or visit CUB's website, [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).