

## Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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### Enjoy The Heat Of Summer, But Prepare For The Cold Of Winter

Commission's latest outlook projects no large utility increases in the summer, but winter could cost more

Even as they bask in the July sun, Oklahomans might want to begin thinking about budgeting for higher utility bills this winter. That's the conclusion one can draw from the latest edition of the [Oklahoma Energy Price Outlook](#), a tool offered by the Corporation Commission to enable Oklahomans to better plan their utility budgets

"While the [Outlook](#) projections show basically flat electric bills this summer compared to last, heating costs this winter could be markedly higher," said Commission Chairman Denise Bode. "The problem, as the Commission has been warning for some years now, is that the demand for natural gas continues to grow while the lack of a national energy policy has left producers struggling. Since natural gas is used increasingly as a fuel to generate electricity, the increase we've seen in natural gas prices impacts not only your natural gas bill, but your electric bill as well."

But Bode added the dark cloud of high natural gas prices has a silver lining, particularly for Oklahoma.

"The [Outlook's](#) oil and gas section shows drilling-related activity in Oklahoma is up sharply over the past year. This not only helps the natural gas supply situation, it also means millions for the Oklahoma economy overall. At the same time, the high prices have spurred more interest in alternative energy. OG&E is offering wind power and AEP/PSO has announced a wind power program. Wind power is also playing a role in the plans of some of the state's electric cooperatives," explained Bode.

Commission Vice-chair Bob Anthony said the [Outlook](#) is a valuable tool, particularly in a time of ever-increasing energy prices.

"Information is power," asserted Anthony. "The information in the [Outlook](#) is aimed at empowering consumers by giving them the data they need to be prepared when it comes to their basic energy costs. Using the data and taking such steps as making sure your home is insulated properly can eliminate 'sticker shock' when it comes to your utility bill. Perhaps the one thing that's worse than getting a high bill is getting a high bill you weren't prepared for and didn't expect."

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said the [Outlook](#) is also noteworthy in that it is the result of a cooperative effort involving the Commission and regulated entities.

"In order to develop the Outlook, Oklahoma's largest utilities are asked to provide the Commission with essential data on a voluntarily basis. Without exception, all have proven eager to help develop this valuable resource for Oklahoma's consumers. Their cooperation and expertise in projects such as this is invaluable."

The [Outlook](#) section of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's web site offers projections regarding natural gas and electric bills, Oklahoma oil and gas production data, and other energy information.

**The [Oklahoma Energy Price Outlook](#) link can be found on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's web home page [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com).**

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All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site [www.occeweb.com](http://www.occeweb.com)

NOTE TO EDITORS, PRODUCERS - SEE ACCOMPANYING PAGES FOR ELECTRIC, GAS BILL PROJECTIONS

### **ELECTRIC BILL COMPARISON\* (MONTHLY BILL)**

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Average Summer

# OG&E

(Both Companies

PSO Summer	Res.	Comm.	Summer	Res.	Comm.	Combined) Res.	Comm.
2002	\$90.70	\$153.71	2002	\$106.91	\$233.26	\$98.81	\$193.49
2003	\$116.64	\$194.79	2003	\$126.85	\$260.79	\$121.75	\$227.79
2004	\$110.01	\$184.02	2004	\$121.90	\$252.95	\$115.96	\$218.49

Average Winter

(Both Companies

Winter	Res.	Comm.	Winter	Res.	Comm.	Combined) Res.	Comm.
2002-2003	\$65.68	\$109.83	2002-2003	\$66.57	\$135.44	\$66.13	\$122.64
2003-2004	\$69.24	\$115.78	2003-2004	\$77.83	\$153.90	\$73.54	\$134.84
2004-2005	\$72.07	\$120.36	2004-2005	\$74.90	\$149.09	\$73.49	\$134.73

**\*Residential – based on Summer usage of 1450 kilowatts, Winter usage of 1070 kilowatts. Excludes taxes** **\*Commercial – based on Summer usage of 2300 kilowatts, Winter usage of 1760 kilowatts. Excludes taxes.**

## NATURAL GAS BILL COMPARISON\* (MONTHLY BILL)

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Average

Summer (both companies)

	Summer	Res.	Comm.	Summer	Res.	Comm.	Res.	Comm.
Actual	2002	\$19.99	\$77.99	2002	\$19.96	\$88.75	\$19.98	\$83.37
Actual	2003	\$25.14	\$124.03	2003	\$29.31	\$142.17	\$27.23	\$133.10
	2004	\$25.37	\$125.56	2004	\$29.52	\$144.67	\$27.45	\$135.12

Average

Winter

	Winter	Res.	Comm.	Winter	Res.	Comm.	Res.	Comm.
Actual	2002-2003	\$89.24	\$343.47	2002-2003	\$118.10	\$399.54	\$103.67	\$371.51
Actual	2003-2004	\$111.36	\$438.53	2003-2004	\$138.19	\$486.44	\$124.78	\$462.49
	2004-2005	\$119.22	\$463.94	2004-2005	\$153.91	\$542.55	\$136.57	\$503.25

**\*Residential – based on Summer usage of 2 Dekatherms, Winter usage of 14 Dekatherms. Excludes taxes.**

**\*Commercial – based on Summer usage of 12 Dekatherms, Winter usage of 50 Dekatherms. Excludes taxes.**