



FACT SHEET: WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY'S RATE CASE (FORMAL CASE 1169)

WGL Requests its Largest Rate Increase in Decades

On April 4, 2022, Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) filed a request with the DC Public Service Commission seeking permission to increase natural gas rates by \$53 million.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RATEPAYERS?

If the Commission approves the request, the average residential gas bill will increase by **20.4%**. That's about **\$16.48 per month**. The rate hike would go into effect despite the lingering economic impact many consumers are still suffering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

IS THIS A TYPICAL RATE CASE?

No. This case is unique for several reasons.

1. The magnitude of the increase is much higher than previous WGL rate cases. In WGL's previous rate case approved in 2021, the Company entered into a \$19.5 million settlement agreement after initially seeking a \$35 million increase.
2. WGL is requesting revenue to compensate the company for complying with the District's goals to reduce carbon (greenhouse gas) levels by 2050.
3. WGL has failed to adequately improve critical aspects of its customer service programs, particularly regarding its bill payment centers.
4. WGL has consistently failed to adequately correct its gas pipeline leaks, however, it consistently exceeds its annual budget.
5. Finally, the company is requesting the commission shorten the timeframe for public review and scrutiny of its multi-million rate case.

In addition to the climate issue, there are several circumstances that heighten the importance of this case.

WHAT ARE OPC'S NEXT STEPS?

1. OPC's Litigation Team is thoroughly reviewing and analyzing WGL's lengthy application.
2. OPC will determine whether WGL has proved that it is entitled to recover any additional money from ratepayers.
3. OPC will determine whether the Company's proposed rates are just, reasonable, affordable, and equitable for consumers in all eight wards of the District.
4. Whether WGL's application advances the District's climate change policies?
5. OPC will educate consumers through community briefings to explain how this case will impact their households.
6. OPC will solicit consumer input and listen to their concerns. OPC will provide consumers with updates and progress reports as the case moves forward.
7. OPC will assist consumers who want to play an active role in the case. OPC will provide technical assistance to consumers who want to submit comments or testify at community hearings.
8. OPC will fight to ensure the Commission thoroughly examines these complex issues and that it ultimately bases its decision on a complete and fully developed evidentiary record.

KEY QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED:

1. How will the future of natural gas service in the District be considered in this case?
2. Will WGL's surcharge proposals advance the city's environmental goals and policies?

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