

Midwest Energy, Inc.

Current Comments

September 2024

Making energy work for YOU

Midwest Begins Operating Winona Gas System

Effective Aug. 19, 2024, Midwest Energy began operating and maintaining the natural gas system in Winona, Kan. The City of Winona opted to retain municipal ownership of the 117-meter gas system, but chose Midwest Energy to operate the gas system under a new contract with the city.

For the 193 residents of Winona, located on the high plains 43 miles east of the Kansas-Colorado border, winters can be brutal; residents rely on their electric and natural gas services to keep farms, homes and ranches running. For the City, selecting Midwest Energy seemed a good fit, as the Hays-based cooperative has provided electric service

to the City under franchise for decades.

"Midwest is already out here, so they seemed a logical choice," said Guy Gaskill, Mayor of Winona and a local banker. "They've done a great job with the electrical system, so we're excited to see how they do with the gas," he said.

Under the one-year contract, the City will retain responsibility for administrative matters, such as billing and handling customer service matters. Midwest personnel based in Sharon Springs and Oakley, both within a 30-minute drive, will provide day-to-day electric and gas service to the City, as well as respond to emergencies.

Continued



Gas Rate Case, Electric Tariff Changes Proposed

Most residential gas bills would increase less than 60 cents per month

Midwest Energy is seeking Board of Directors approval for natural gas rate changes, effective Jan. 1, 2025. The new rates would result in a net increase of roughly 58 cents per month for the average residential gas customer, raising an additional \$105,000 per year for the cooperative. The co-op would see a slight reduction in revenues from all other classes.

The new rates would ensure rates remain balanced across classes and keep tariffs up-to-date. Monthly customer charges would remain unchanged for residential customers, but increase slightly for all other classes. The Gas Cost-of-Service Rider, currently \$3.48 per month for residential customers, would reset to \$1.74 per month.

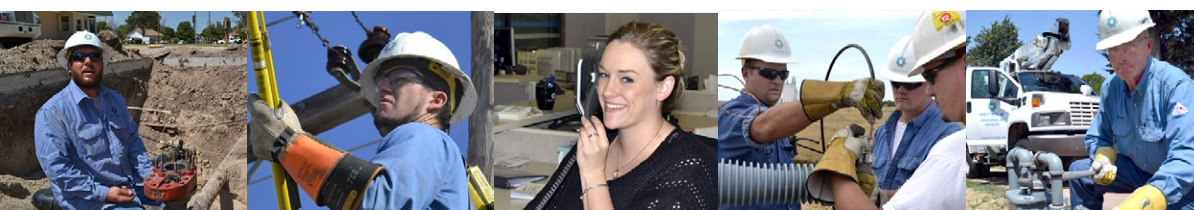
Several changes to electric and natural gas tariffs are also being proposed, including changing the cap to the Gas

Cost-of-Service Rider from \$900,000 per year to 4.5% annually, and adding language to the Energy Cost Adjustment (ECA) and Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) for collecting revenue for reserves to hedge against wholesale energy prices and future capacity needs. Additional tariff language is being proposed to allow for energy consumption to be billed at the actual energy prices during periods of high volatility typically associated with extreme weather events.

To explain the proposals, Midwest Energy will hold a series of public information meetings throughout its service area. All Midwest Energy customers are invited to attend.

Phillipsburg: Thursday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m. @ Huck Boyd Community Center

Hays: Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6 p.m. @ BriefSpace *Continued*



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Gas Rate Case (Continued)

Colby: Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6 p.m.
@ City Limits Convention Center
Scott City: Thursday, Nov. 7, 6 p.m.
@ Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center.

The exact wording of modifications to electric and natural gas tariffs and proposed changes will be posted on the company's website, www.mwenergy.com, no later than Oct. 25, 2024.

Customers have the opportunity to send comments regarding the proposed rate changes to Midwest Energy no later than Friday, Nov. 8.

Community Fund Applications Due Oct. 1

Midwest Energy's Community Fund Grants are awarded semi-annually to charitable, educational and nonprofit organizations in our service area. The fall application deadline of Oct. 1 is quickly approaching.

The Community Fund supports a variety of projects, from park and public safety improvements to leadership and educational programs. Grants range from \$100 to \$1,000, with funding decisions made by

Comments should be addressed to Justin MacDonald, Vice President of Customer Service, at jmacdonald@mwenergy.com, or by phone at (800) 222-3121.

All Midwest Energy members are also invited to attend an open member meeting, where the Board of Directors will consider and vote on the proposed changes. That meeting will be held Monday, Nov. 18, 2024 at 1 p.m., at the Midwest Energy Office, 1330 Canterbury Dr., Hays, Kan.

local committees in five geographic districts. In spring 2024, \$47,233 was awarded to 97 projects across the service area.

Interested groups can find the application by visiting www.mwenergy.com, hovering over the "Community" tab and clicking "Community Fund/ Impact Grant." The one-page application can be completed in less than 15 minutes. All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply.

Winona (Continued)

The contract marks the fourth arrangement in recent years between Midwest Energy and various small cities in central and western Kansas, where the City retains utility system ownership but Midwest operates and maintains it under contract. Midwest began operating systems for the cities of Hill City and Lamed 2021, with Lamed extending their agreement to a 10-year contract. Midwest began operating Sharon Springs' electric system on an annual basis in early 2024.

Gaskill noted that the City's contract term was short, to allow both parties time to settle into the arrangement.

"We've been talking about this a long time, and we're just really happy to get this started," Gaskill said. "We will look at how things are running, and at the end of the period evaluate if it makes sense for both sides to keep going forward."

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you recently made or plan to make energy efficiency upgrades to your home, you may be eligible for federal tax credits. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 empowers homeowners to save up to \$3,000 annually to lower the cost of efficiency upgrades by up to 30%. A few upgrades covered through the IRA include new exterior doors, windows, insulation, heating/cooling equipment and other major appliances. If you have completed or are considering an efficiency upgrade, visit www.energystar.gov/federal-tax-credits to learn if you qualify for tax credits.

Source: energystar.gov

2024 Annual Meeting Scheduled

Midwest Energy's 2024 Annual Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, October 21st at the Hilton Garden Inn, 221 W. 43rd St., Hays, KS 67601.

During the Annual Meeting, Board officers and the CEO will deliver remarks on the financial and operational status of the cooperative, as well as current regulatory issues and trends in energy that

are affecting the business. The two students who attended the 2024 Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. will give a brief presentation. Board of Director election results will also be announced at the meeting, which will last roughly one hour. More than a dozen great door prizes will be awarded. All Midwest Energy members are encouraged to attend.

Atwood, KS • Colby, KS • Great Bend, KS • Hays, KS

Phillipsburg, KS • Scott City, KS • WaKeeney, KS

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