



LIVING *with Energy*

PSNH Plans For Major Rate Reduction



**Typical bill of a PSNH residential customer using 500 kWh per month*

PSNH notified state regulators in April that it will seek a 12.7 percent reduction in its average electric rates, effective July 1. If the rate request is approved by the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (NHPUC), the monthly bill of a PSNH residential customer using 500 kilowatt hours of electricity a month will drop to about \$76.96, a savings of \$9.80.

The reduction in rates is primarily a result of completing payments of certain costs related to the restructuring of the state's electric industry, so-called 'stranded costs.'

"This is great news for our customers and positions us well for the future," noted Gary A. Long, PSNH president and chief operating officer. "It is the most significant reduction in PSNH rates since 2001."



CONNECTING WITH PSNH

Receive Your PSNH Bill Electronically!

RECEIVING YOUR BILL ELECTRONICALLY IS A CONVENIENT, ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS ALTERNATIVE TO RECEIVING A PAPER COPY. IF YOU SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC BILL DELIVERY, PSNH WILL SEND YOU AN EMAIL CONTAINING AN INTERNET LINK WHICH CAN BE USED TO VIEW YOUR BILL AFTER YOUR METER IS READ EACH MONTH. THIS LINK PROVIDES THE SAME INFORMATION AS A PAPER BILL, INCLUDING A VIEW OF YOUR ACTUAL ELECTRIC BILL, A LINK TO THE LIVING WITH ENERGY NEWSLETTER AND ANY SPECIAL INSERTS.

You can register for eBilling, as well as many other online services, by visiting our website at psnh.com.



Celebrate National Electrical Safety Month!

May is National Electrical Safety Month, but electrical safety is an issue that should stay with us year-round. Our environment is filled with hazards – at home, work and school. Carelessness around electricity and electrical equipment can be very harmful.

The good news is that over the past few years, as a result of increased electrical safety awareness, electrical shocks and electrical fires have declined. So, as the warmer weather returns and spring gardening and landscaping projects fill the weekend schedule, be aware of electrical safety and play it safe.

Here are some simple tips to keep in mind:

- **Look up.** When installing or taking down antennas, using ladders, cleaning windows and gutters or painting the house, be mindful of nearby power lines. Never touch or allow anything you are holding to touch a power line.



CONNECTING WITH PSNH

Online Energy Calculator

HOW MUCH ENERGY WILL A NEW AIR CONDITIONER USE?
WHAT WILL IT COST TO RUN A DEHUMIDIFIER IN YOUR
BASEMENT FOR A MONTH? THE FIRST STEP TOWARD
REDUCING YOUR BILL IS FIGURING OUT HOW MUCH
ENERGY YOU NOW USE — OR HOW MUCH YOU WILL USE
IF YOU ADD NEW APPLIANCES. YOU CAN VISIT PSNH.COM
AND USE THE PSNH ENERGY CALCULATOR TO ESTIMATE
THE MONTHLY COST OF OPERATING AN INDIVIDUAL
APPLIANCE — OR EVERYTHING IN YOUR HOME. OUR
ENERGY CALCULATOR IS A SECURE SYSTEM AND
REQUIRES A PSNH ACCOUNT NUMBER TO USE.

- **Look down.** Buried electrical power, gas and cable lines are insulated but can be damaged and become dangerous by the blade of a shovel or any sharp object. Before you do any digging in your yard, call Dig Safe at 1-888-DIG-SAFE (1-888-344-7233) to understand exactly where underground utilities are located.
- **Water and electricity don't mix.** Electric-powered mowers and other tools should not be used in the rain, on wet grass, or in wet conditions. Don't leave tools plugged in where they might come into contact with water.

Remember, when it comes to electricity, that extra precaution can save your home or even your life.

For more information on National Electrical Safety Month, visit Electrical Safety Foundation International at www.electrical-safety.org.

Tips On Cooling Your Home This Summer

As the weather continues to get warmer and warmer, we start to consider ways of staying cool in our homes. Whether you're looking to purchase room air conditioners or a central air conditioning unit, think about the most efficient solution for your home:

Room Air Conditioners

Room air conditioners cool rooms rather than the entire home. If they provide cooling only where they're needed, room air conditioners are less expensive to operate than central air units, even though their efficiency is generally lower than that of central air conditioners.

On psnh.com, you can access the Energy Calculator to obtain a BTU* range, which will help you to purchase the right size room air conditioner.

Central Air Conditioners

Central air conditioners circulate cool air through a system of supply and return ducts. Supply ducts and registers (i.e., openings in the walls, floors, or ceilings covered by grills) carry cooled air from the air conditioner to the home. This cooled air becomes warmer as it circulates through the home; then it flows back to the central air conditioner through return ducts and registers.

Cooling Tips

- * Always look for the ENERGY STAR® label and buy air conditioning with the highest Energy Efficiency Rating (EER).
- * For the best efficiency, install air conditioner units on the north or east side of your home – or in a shaded area.
- * If your heating system uses separate ductwork, be sure to close heat registers and cold-air-returns.
- * Close fireplace dampers.
- * Increasing your operating temperature set-point just a few degrees, reduces the amount of energy required to operate your air conditioning system, lowers the overall demand for energy and saves you money.

PSNH is offering a \$20 rebate for ENERGY STAR® qualified window air conditioners if purchased between March 1st and July 30th, 2006. See psnh.com for participating retailers.

For more efficiency tips on staying cool this summer, visit psnh.com.

**The British Thermal Unit (BTU) is a precise measure of energy. It is the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit when the water is near 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit.*



Trimming Your Bushes

Our meter readers are like mail carriers; very little keeps them from their appointed rounds. However, overgrown bushes surrounding electric meters can make their work more challenging.

You can help by trimming back any overgrown shrubs that may be blocking the path to your meter. If our meter reader is unable to get near your meter, we have to estimate the usage and adjust the bill later when an actual reading has been taken.

When you're out doing yard work, think about the path to your electric meter. Clearing the way will help reduce the risk of injury, and our meter readers will truly appreciate it!



Level Payment Plan Evens Out Your Bills

IF YOU FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BUDGET FOR YOUR ELECTRIC PAYMENT EACH MONTH, PSNH'S LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN MIGHT BE FOR YOU. THIS POPULAR BILLING METHOD ALLOWS YOU TO PAY A FIXED AMOUNT EACH MONTH, RATHER THAN THE SOMETIMES HIGH OR LOW BILLS THAT CAN COME WITH THE CHANGING SEASONS.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. A MONTHLY BUDGET AMOUNT IS DETERMINED BY AVERAGING YOUR ELECTRICITY COSTS FOR THE REMAINING MONTHS OF THE LEVEL PAYMENT PLAN (MAY-AUGUST). ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE TWICE EACH YEAR, AUGUST & FEBRUARY, TO ACCURATELY REFLECT YOUR ENERGY USAGE.

If you're interested in enrolling or learning more about the Level Payment Plan, log onto psnh.com and select Your Account.

Supporting Your Life in Every Moment.



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**

The Northeast Utilities System

 **psnh.com**

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