

Your Energy Connection



November 2015

Naughty or Nice Holiday Safety List

As you make your lists and check them twice, here is one to keep your holiday celebrations safe and nice.

Naughty

- Never attempt to extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it with another extension cord. Use an extension cord that is long enough to meet your needs.
- Never nail or staple light strings or extension cords. Use the appropriate hardware to avoid damaging the wire insulation.
- Never run an extension cord under a rug or position it in such a way that it is pinched by furniture.
- Do not connect more than three incandescent holiday light strings together.
- Never decorate a tree that is in contact with a power line.

Nice

- Water your Christmas tree daily to keep it hydrated and reduce your risk of fire.
- Keep all decorations, including Christmas trees, at least three feet away from heating equipment or an open flame, such as a candle or fireplace.
- Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations and heating equipment before leaving home or going to bed.
- Always unplug electrical decorations before replacing bulbs or fuses.
- Plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) receptacles (or portable GFCIs) to prevent electric shock.
- Always follow manufacturers' instructions and use products as they were intended regarding indoor or outdoor use.

The above information was obtained from the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). For more holiday safety tips, visit www.esfi.org.

New Natural Gas Rates: What this means for your utility bill

As of Sept. 1, 2015, the residential rates for natural gas service decreased by an **overall 7%**. The new Facilities charge is \$14.00 (April-September) and \$34.00 (October-March). The new Energy charge is \$1.12/therm (first 10 therms) and \$0.85/therm (over 10 therms).

What does this mean for your bill?

The effects of the rate changes on customers' utility bills will vary depending on each customer's usage. For instance, customers using a large amount of natural gas (i.e. greater than 100 therms) will see more of a decrease in costs. However, customers using a minimal amount of natural gas (less than 50 therms) will see an *increase* in costs. The chart below shows a comparison of costs based on usage.

Residential Customer Monthly Natural Gas Cost					
Usage (therms)	Former Rate	Summer Rate	Winter Rate	Difference Summer	Difference Winter
0	\$9.00	\$14.00	\$34.00	\$5.00	\$25.00
10	\$24.27	\$25.16	\$45.16	\$0.89	\$20.89
25	\$44.18	\$37.94	\$57.94	(\$6.24)	\$13.76
50	\$77.35	\$59.24	\$79.24	(\$18.11)	\$1.89
100	\$143.71	\$101.83	\$121.83	(\$41.88)	(\$21.88)
200	\$276.42	\$187.01	\$207.01	(\$89.41)	(\$69.41)
300	\$409.13	\$272.20	\$292.20	(\$136.93)	(\$116.93)
400	\$541.84	\$357.38	\$377.38	(\$184.46)	(\$164.46)

Use the Holiday Lighting Energy Calculator to help you save energy!



Whether your lights are starting to look worn or you just want to cut energy costs, consider replacing your incandescent lights with LED.

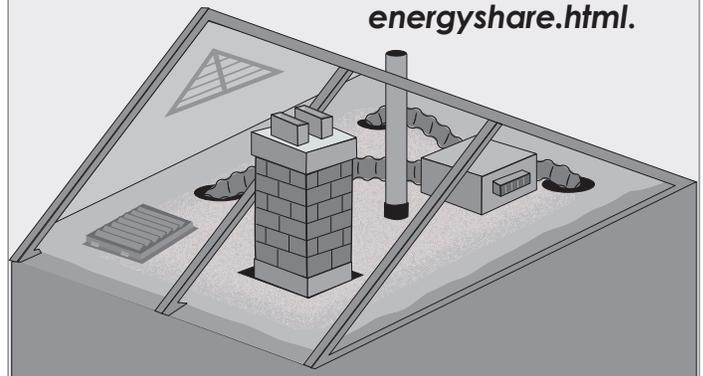
Use the **Holiday Lighting Energy Calculator** to help you decide which type of lights to purchase. Simply enter the number of lights and the hours used each day to see the cost difference between incandescent and LED. To use the calculator, visit www.rockymountnc.gov/utilities/holidaylighting.html.

Weatherization rebates available through Energy Share!

Through the Energy Share program, customers can receive a cash rebate of up to \$500 for work related to attic weatherization and/or up to \$500 for a replacement HVAC system.

Any RMPU electric and/or natural gas customers may apply, including homeowners and renters. There are no income regulations with this program, but funds are limited.

For information, call (252) 972-1102 or visit www.rockymountnc.gov/energysare.html.



Help those in need this winter by supporting the WARM Program

The Winter Assistance for Rocky Mount (W.A.R.M.) Program assists low income elderly, disabled or recently laid off customers with paying heating expenses. W.A.R.M. is supported solely on donations from the community.



Donations are tax deductible and 100% of all contributions are used to help those in need.

There are three ways you can donate:

- Make a lump sum donation
- Complete and return the enrollment form in your monthly utility bill
- Round up your monthly bill to the nearest \$1

For more information about the W.A.R.M. Program, call (252) 972-1250 or visit www.rockymountnc.gov/warm.html.

