

## Natural Gas Delivery

Res. USBC:

**(Jan. and Dec.) Res. USBC = 63 therms x \$0.0161585 = \$1.02**

The USB charge for natural gas in Montana is established in statute but is not as clear as the electric requirement. (69-3-1408, MCA) The law requires the PSC to determine the actual charge, but it requires that at least .42 percent of the natural gas utility's annual revenue in gas sales be dedicated to low-income weatherization and low-income energy bill assistance.

PSC rules currently require natural gas utilities to spend at least 1.12 percent of their previous year's natural gas revenues on USB programs. The natural gas USB, because of the flexibility afforded in adjusting the rate, has been the subject of much discussion in the past at the PSC.

Most recently, NorthWestern Energy has requested a natural gas USB charge rate adjustment. In the 2013 filing, NorthWestern proposed rates be decreased, resulting in a decrease for a typical residential customer using 100 therms of natural gas per month of about 58 cents or \$6.69 a year.

A natural gas utility shall implement, upon commission approval and subject to ongoing commission oversight and direction, a universal system benefits program.69-3-1408, MCA.