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## Liberty Utilities files request with IUB to increase its customer natural gas rates in southeast Iowa

(Des Moines) — Liberty Utilities Company (Liberty) filed an [application](#) with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) on December 31, 2020, in Docket No. [RPU-2020-0002](#), requesting approval to increase the natural gas rates it charges to its customers. Liberty mailed notices to its customers on December 29, 2020, reflecting the proposed increases by customer class.

Liberty is seeking an annual revenue increase of \$566,241, or 18.87%, which would increase their base rates to \$3,567,431. The average residential customer bill would increase by \$7.10 per month, or 11.45%, and would vary based on usage. Ultimately, the IUB will set Liberty's final rates, which may be different than those the utility has proposed.

Iowa law allows Liberty to implement temporary rate increases. Liberty has proposed the amounts it is seeking in the final rate increase (\$7.10 monthly for residential customers) to take effect on January 10, 2021. Depending on the final rates approved by the IUB, a refund may be owed to customers with interest.

The IUB will schedule a consumer comment hearing for customers to ask questions about the rate case of Liberty, the IUB, or the Office of the Consumer Advocate, which represents all consumers in matters before the IUB. Additionally, the IUB will schedule a public hearing to receive evidence and testimony regarding the proposed rates.

Customers can email written comments or objections about the rate case to [customer@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customer@iub.iowa.gov) and include the docket number RPU-2020-0002, or use the [Open Docket Comment Form](#) on the IUB's website and select the docket name for this case. Comments or objections are not individually addressed by the IUB, but they are reviewed and considered as the IUB makes its decision in the case. Customers also may make verbal comments at the consumer comment hearing.

The IUB will decide whether Liberty's proposed rates are reasonable and just or whether Liberty's proposal must be modified. The IUB will issue its final decision by October 31, 2021. Information about the rate case and public comment meeting will be available on the IUB website and documents filed in this rate case are available to review in [the docket](#).

Liberty provides natural gas service to about 4,000 customers in Keokuk and surrounding parts of Lee County, Iowa.

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