



John Neer, President  
Brian Terry, Vice President  
David Ausmus, Board Member  
David Wilt, Board Member  
Renita Waldron, Secretary  
Stephanie Wilson, General Manager

February 16, 2021

Dear Customer:

For the period of February 13 – 16, 2021, natural gas commodity that had not been pre-purchased was anticipated to cost \$5,000 per day and it increased to \$400,000 per day! What caused this? Plunging temperatures this past week caused natural gas wells in the south to freeze and created increased demand for natural gas supply plus electricity generation. Expense for the remainder of February 2021 remains unknown as the commodity trades each day.

Macon Municipal Utilities strives to protect customers from price shocks and pre-purchases a large portion of natural gas supply for winter heating needs. Based on February 2020 usage, MMU had secured 82% of the daily usage for February 2021 at prices between \$2.10 and \$2.55 per dekatherm. The plan was working great until this historic weather event.

Utilities throughout the Midwest have been affected. MMU will be working through a strategy for how to best protect the customer with future utility costs, pursue financial relief from this crisis, and to rebuild reserves in the event of another catastrophe in the future. To assist in this effort, United States Senator Roy Blunt, State of Missouri Senator Cindy O’Laughlin, and State of Missouri Representative Ed Lewis have been contacted for assistance.

As winter is not over, below are Energy Efficiency Tips that will assist MMU from having service interruptions and to help you save on heating bills:

- **Keep warm, not hot** – When possible wear additional layers of clothing and turn down your thermostat to be between 65-67 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Close blinds and curtains** – This helps warm air inside, especially if the sun is not shining.
- **Change or clean filters** – A clean filter on your furnace can lower your energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent. Dirty filters cost more to use and overwork the equipment.
- **Laundry and Dishes** – Use the cold setting on your washing machine and cool water to wash dishes.
- **Install foam gaskets on electrical switches and outlets** – electrical switches and outlets can account for up to 10 percent of your home’s energy loss.

Please contact MMU with questions at (660) 385-3173 during normal business hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Stephanie Wilson'.

Stephanie Wilson  
General Manager