



Taking Action by Choosing a Natural Gas Supplier

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Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

The Natural Gas Choice and Competition Act allows residential customers to choose the company that supplies their natural gas, also known as your Natural Gas Supplier (NGS). Your choice can be based on price, services and incentives. Competitive offers from natural gas suppliers are not available in all areas of Pennsylvania.

Important Questions to Ask When Shopping for a Natural Gas Supplier

- Is the supplier licensed by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC)?
- What is the NGS's Price to Compare and how long is that price effective?
- What does the NGS's price per Ccf/Mcf/Therms include?
- Is the NGS's rate fixed, variable or unlimited usage?
 - **Fixed** - An all-inclusive, per-Ccf/Mcf/Therms price that will remain the same for at least three billing cycles or the term of the contract, whichever is longer. A fixed price will remain the same, usually for a set period of time. This will give you certainty that your price will not change during the term of the agreement.
 - **Variable** - An all-inclusive, per-Ccf/Mcf/Therms price that can change by the hour, day, month, etc., according to the terms and conditions in the supplier's disclosure statement. If you select a variable rate, the rate may change with market conditions.
 - **Unlimited Usage Flat Bill:**
A plan that is a locked-in monthly price that is not based on Ccf/Mcf/Therms usage. This gives consumers unlimited natural gas usage at one steady rate that cannot change during the contract's term.
- If the rate is variable, is there a limit to how high or low the variable rate can go?
- Is there an introductory rate and how long does it last?
- If the EGS offers an introductory rate, what will the price be at the end of the introductory period? Will they be able to provide the rate in advance of the service being used?
- Who provides billing and will I receive one or two bills?
- What is the length of the agreement? Can my price change in that time? If so, when can it change and how will I be notified?
- Will I receive a notice before my contract expires? What happens when my contract expires?
- Is there a cancellation fee or any penalty for switching suppliers before my contract expires?
- Is there a switching fee to change suppliers?
- Does the NGS offer any incentives, bonuses or other products?
- Are there any additional fees for switching or canceling your NGS?
- If I choose a new supplier, will my Natural Gas Distribution Company (NGDC) continue to provide payment assistance programs?
- Does the supplier offer a budget billing plan?
- Will I still get service from the supplier if I have an outstanding balance or bad payment history?

Shopping Instructions

1. Write in the **supplier name**.
2. Write in the natural gas distribution company **NGDC Price to Compare** and how long is that price effective?
3. Ask the NGS for their price in dollars per Ccf/Mcf/Therms. Write the price and the unit of measurement on the **NGS Price** line.
4. Ask your **NGDC** if there is a charge or credit for leaving default service, often called a **Migration Rider**.^{*} If so, write the amount of the charge or credit on the **Migration Rider** line.
5. Subtract the **NGS Price** from the **NGDC Price to Compare**. Write the difference on the **Savings** line.
6. To find how much you'll save, find the average monthly gas used on your bill and write it on the **Average Monthly Gas Used** line.
7. Multiply the Savings times the **Average Monthly Gas Used**. This gives your **Total Average Monthly Savings**.

	Supplier 1	Supplier 2	Supplier 3
1. NGS Name	_____	_____	_____
2. NGDC Price to Compare	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. NGS Price	- \$ _____	- \$ _____	- \$ _____
4. Migration Rider	+/- \$ _____	+/- \$ _____	+/- \$ _____
5. Savings	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. Average Monthly Gas Used	x _____	x _____	x _____
7. Total Average Monthly Savings	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

^{*} *Migration Rider – A mechanism, permissible by law, that enables NGDCs to charge a fee, or provide a credit if applicable, when a customer enrolls with a NGS. The migration rider is a “true-up” for gas purchased by the NGDC – on behalf of the customer – for the 12-month period prior to switching to an alternative NGS. The fee or credit will apply for one year, and then be eliminated.*

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