



## ***Press Release***

**02/15/10**

# **Natural Gas & Electricity News**

We're at the time of year when what we're paying for natural gas becomes less top of mind. This column which is exclusive to Brecksville residents, therefore takes on a "latest news" approach, especially for the many of you who actively pursue information year round and want to always make sure you're not paying too much.

There is no doubt that many Brecksville residents don't know or don't care that they are paying too much.

Toward the end of January, several companies, including IGS Energy sent mailers offering fixed rates approaching \$8.00. Although it is impossible to make a recommendation with absolute certainty it does appear that fixed rate offers are not appropriate at this time or in the near future; simply because they are too high compared to the going rate for gas.

Dominion East Ohio's monthly variable rate, the benchmark for any price comparison, is \$6.67 per MCF through March 17. Natural gas futures prices indicate that the price will not exceed \$8.00 until early next year.

So, what do you do? Check your February gas bill and make sure you are paying no more than \$7.99. Even that's high. If your supplier is NOPEC/Dominion Retail and you're paying their fixed rate of \$7.99 or higher call them at 888-848-7914 and tell them to move you to their variable rate which is more than a dollar per MCF lower.

Remember, NEVER, EVER sign up for an offer without checking first to see if your existing supplier will charge you an early termination fee. And NEVER, EVER take an offer that has an early termination higher than \$25.

By the way, if you were one of the lucky ones who latched onto Brecksville's fixed rate of \$6.74 with IGS Energy DO NOT change it!

A final note on electricity; those of you who have the NOPEC/GEXA Energy discount on your electric bill will see the name GEXA Energy change to First Energy Solutions. That's fine. Don't worry about it.

Remember, electric discounts pale in comparison to gas discounts. They are so small that it isn't worth being concerned about electricity. If someone wants to offer you \$5 off something take it. That's all we're talking about each month.

