

BE PREPARED! DON'T BE CAUGHT IN THE COLD!!!!
An Open Letter to Florence Natural Gas Customers

Dear Natural Gas Customer:

GLOBAL DEMAND FOR ENERGY...AN INCREASING DEMAND FOR NATURAL GAS FOR ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION...THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR...AN ACTIVE HURRICANE SEASON. ALL OF THESE FACTORS AFFECT NATURAL GAS PRICES.

Earlier this summer, natural gas prices were soaring. However, like crude oil and gasoline, the market has somewhat softened and natural gas prices have decreased significantly, but they are still higher than last year. We are optimistic that prices will continue to decrease further, but we are still asking our customers to be prepared, and we will do our part by keeping you posted through the City of Florence Website (www.florenceal.org) and the Florence Energy that comes with your utility bill each month.

The Florence Gas Department will continue to utilize means to keep our rates as low as possible, by continuing the use of our Risk Management Purchasing Plan, by purchasing gas through a natural gas cooperative, and by maintaining our expenses as low as possible. This strategy provided you, our customer, with some of the lowest rates in North Alabama this past winter. What can you do?

- Call the Budget Billing Administrator (718-3210) and inquire about Budget Billing.
- Clean and/or replace your furnace filter regularly.
- If you have a fireplace, keep the damper doors closed when not in use.
- Consider replacement windows - double pane and/or storm windows reduce your energy usage by 25% to 50%.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Each degree your thermostat is reduced can potentially save you 3% on your heating bill.
- Consider insulating your attic. This could reduce your heat and cooling usage by 30%.
- Change the rotation of your ceiling fan to clockwise. This will push warm air at the ceiling down into the living area.
- Perform annual maintenance on heating equipment for proper operation.
- Replace older equipment with more efficient natural gas equipment.

Hopefully this information will help you prepare for the rising energy costs we are facing to heat our homes and businesses. If you have any questions, please call our office at **760-6490**.

Sincerely,



Michael Doyle, Manager