



NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION COMMISSION FROM THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT 5 COMMISSIONER SANDY JONES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*** MEDIA ADVISORY ***

Public comment hearing planned on Zia Natural Gas' proposed rate increase

SANTA FE, NM – New Mexico Public Regulation Commission Chairman Sandy Jones is seeking feedback on a proposed rate increase for Zia Natural Gas Company customers and this week is hosting a public comment hearing in Las Cruces.

Zia Natural Gas Company is a natural gas distribution and transmission utility serving more than 37,500 customers in five counties. The company is requesting a general rate increase of approximately \$2.6 million or 9.2 percent in base rates, an increase of nearly \$247,000 in other tariff revenues, and a rate of return of 9.38 percent.

According to the utility, the boost in rates will help cover changes to operating costs and plant improvements. The proposed increase would apply to customers in each rate class throughout New Mexico. In addition to current rate classes, the gas company wishes to add two new rate classes: industrial and irrigation.

“As chairman of the agency that represents energy consumers, I urge Zia Natural Gas customers to attend the comment hearing to learn what a rate revision would mean for them,” said Commissioner Jones. “Their input is valuable and their voices will be heard.”

Zia Natural Gas Company General Manager Leslie Graham will address the audience prior to the comment portion of the meeting.

DATE: Thursday, May 3, 2018

TIME: 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

**PLACE: Dona Ana County Government Center, Room 1-113
845 N. Motel Blvd., Las Cruces**

The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) regulates the utilities, telecommunications, and motor carrier industries to ensure fair and reasonable rates, and to assure reasonable and adequate services to the public as provided by law. The NMPRC promotes public safety through the offices of State Fire Marshal, the Firefighter Training Academy, Pipeline Safety Bureau, and Transportation Division.