

## News Release

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### **Take Control of Winter Heating Expenses Today! Columbia Gas of Virginia Offers Budget Payment Plan**

**CHESTER, VA. – July 23, 2008** – Along with gasoline, food and other commodities we use every day, the price of natural gas is also higher than last year. While we can't predict what temperatures will be like this winter, energy analysts expect that it might be harder to pay your heating bills even with normal weather conditions.

Take control of your winter heating expenses by enrolling in the Budget Payment Plan offered by Columbia Gas of Virginia (Columbia). Beginning next week and throughout August, Columbia customers can help reduce the impact of weather and natural gas prices on their household budget by spreading the total annual heating cost more evenly over the year. The budget payment plan estimates the cost for a year of natural gas service and divides it into twelve equal payments. Today, more than 51,000 Columbia customers enjoy the benefits of the Budget Payment Plan.

#### **Four Easy Ways to Enroll in the Budget Payment Plan!**

- A customer with a current account balance can simply pay the budget amount shown on their August bill and become enrolled automatically. By signing up in August a customer will get the maximum twelve month benefit of the Budget Payment Plan.
- The second method of enrolling is simply sign on to [www.columbiagasva.com](http://www.columbiagasva.com), click on "Manage Your Account" and log in to your account.
- The third way to enroll is by calling our automated self-service phone system at 1-800-543-8911, select option 1 from the main menu, then option 3 for Budget information.
- The final way is to contact our Customer Contact Center at 1-800-543-8911 and our representatives will assist customers enrolling in the Budget Payment Plan.

#### **About Columbia Gas of Virginia**

Columbia Gas of Virginia, with headquarters in Chesterfield County, is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). Columbia Gas of Virginia serves nearly 240,000 customers in portions of Northern Virginia, Hampton Roads, suburban Richmond, Central Virginia, and the Shenandoah Valley, the Lynchburg region and parts of Western Virginia. More information about Columbia Gas of Virginia is available on the World Wide Web at [www.columbiagasva.com](http://www.columbiagasva.com).

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