

STATE OF NEW YORK

# Public Service Commission

Garry A. Brown, Chairman

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<http://www.dps.state.ny.us>

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

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## CENTRAL HUDSON NATURAL GAS EFFICIENCY PLAN ADOPTED

—Low-Income Customers Get Much-Needed Energy Efficiency Boost—

Albany, NY—10/15/08— The New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) today authorized a \$400,000 gas efficiency program for Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation to help low-income natural gas customers find ways to lower the cost of their fuel bills this winter.

“With cold weather fast-approaching, we want to make sure low-income customers are provided with the ability to keep warm this winter, especially at a time when the cost of natural gas is expected to be high,” said Commission Chairman Garry Brown. “A very cost-effective way to lower utility bills is through energy conservation and improved energy efficiency.”

Gas customers with household income levels below 60 percent of the State Median Income, which is currently \$3,774 per month for a family of four, or who participated in Central Hudson’s payment assistance program, will be eligible to participate in the program.

Tenants are eligible to receive services if the customer is the bill payer and if the landlord agrees not to raise the rent based on the energy efficiency improvements made by the program. Services will be free to housing occupants.

Measures will include attic and wall insulation, blower-door assisted air sealing, and related health and safety measures. The 12-month program will provide weatherization and other efficiency services to income-eligible households, including rental housing. It will be funded through a System Benefit Charge (SBC) surcharge on residential gas bills starting Nov. 1, 2008.

The program will be administered by New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The average bill impact for non-participating customers will be about 60 cents per month. About 150 households are expected to participate in the program. The relatively short duration of the program is designed to act as an interim step to assist low-income customers during the 2008-09 heating season. Both the amount of funding and the duration of the program are subject to future Commission actions.

The Commission's decision today, when issued, may be obtained from the Commission's [www.dps.state.ny.us](http://www.dps.state.ny.us) Web site by accessing the Commission's File Room section of the homepage and referencing Case 07-M-1139. Many libraries offer free Internet access. Commission orders may also be obtained from the Commission's Files Office, 14th floor, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223 (518-474-2500).