If your home has an Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) gas meter, the Georgia Public Service Commission says that certain things have to be on every natural gas bill. You will see the following six items: 1) Plan type, 2) Per-Therm Rate, 3) Consumption Charge, 4) Customer Service Charge, 5) DDDC Factor, & 6) Atlanta Gas Light Base Charge. The rest of this handout will explain these items.

1) PLAN TYPE
You have the option to choose a Plan Type. You can choose either a **Variable-Rate** plan or a **Fixed-Rate** plan. A Variable-Rate plan has a Per-Therm rate that will go up or down each month. This rate may be lower than the Fixed-Rate plan; however, your Per-Therm rate may rise any time fuel prices increase. A Fixed-Rate plan has a constant therm rate that is usually higher than the average Variable-Rate plan; however, if you have this rate plan, you do not have to worry about your therm rate changing for the length of your Fixed-Rate contract.

2) PER-THERM RATE
A therm is the unit used to measure the amount of gas you have consumed. The Per-Therm Rate is how much your gas marketer charges for each therm of gas used. All certified marketers must post their Per-Therm rates on the Georgia Public Service Commission (GPSC) website so everyone can view who has the lowest rate. These rates are posted by the 5th of every month at [http://www.psc.state.ga.us/gas/pricecard.asp](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/gas/pricecard.asp).

3) CONSUMPTION CHARGE
This is the amount of money charged for the amount of gas used. The number of therms used is multiplied by the Per-Therm rate to get the Consumption Charge.

4) CUSTOMER SERVICE CHARGE
This is a charge added to bills that is based on a combination of factors (including your credit history) determined by the marketer. This charge is fixed, regardless of how much gas is used.
5) DEDICATED DESIGN DAY CAPACITY (DDDC)
This is a number calculated by Atlanta Gas Light that indicates how much gas you typically use during the coldest day of the year. It helps the gas provider plan the amount of capacity needed to supply gas to your home and is used by Atlanta Gas Light to calculate a portion of the Atlanta Gas Light Base Charge. This number may be different for every household and is re-calculated once a year in the early spring (but changes on your bill in August).

6) ATLANTA GAS LIGHT BASE CHARGE
This is a charge added to your bill that goes to Atlanta Gas Light for delivering gas to your home, pipeline maintenance, and meter reading. There are fixed charges as well as variable charges within this bill component. The fixed charges include (but are not limited to) a customer charge, a meter reading charge, a social responsibility charge, a pipe replacement charge, etc. The variable charges are multiplied by your DDDC and include (but are not limited to) firm distribution, peaking, franchise recovery, environmental recovery, etc. This base charge is spread out over 12 months to match the customer's usage patterns.

Your natural gas bill should contain all six of these elements. If you have any questions about your gas service, call your natural gas marketer. If you need further clarification or assistance, call the Georgia Public Service Commission (404-656-4501 in Metro Atlanta, or 1-800-282-5813 outside Metro Atlanta). If you smell a gas leak or have a related emergency, call Atlanta Gas Light (1-800-564-6040).

If you want to attend an educational session or to learn more about your natural gas service, call UGA Cooperative Extension at 1-800-ASK-UGA1.

SOURCES

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