

Storage Placing natural gas into an underground facility for removal and use at a later date.

Therm A therm, or “thm,” is a unit of heat equal to 100,000 British thermal units. The company uses therms as the unit of measure for billing its customers.

Therm multiplier A numeric multiplier that is applied to the volume of gas consumed (as measured in cubic feet, Ccf, or Mcf) to determine the amount of energy consumed (as measured in therms).

Transmission The moving of natural gas through the interstate pipeline system for delivery to the natural gas distribution company.

WNA (Weather normalization adjustment) A billing mechanism that is applied to the distribution portion of a customer’s bill during the months of November through May. The adjustment will only be applied to the bill when normal temperatures are 3% greater, or 3% lower than normal weather conditions for the billing period. The adjustment ensures customers do not pay more or less than normal because of variations in weather.

UTILITY LINGO SIMPLIFIED

Common Natural Gas Competition Terms

There’s a lot to learn about the business of utilities and the language they use. This glossary will help to explain some of those terms in language you can understand.

BTU (British Thermal Unit)	The amount of heat it takes to raise the temperature of one pound of water by one degree Fahrenheit.	Mcf	Another measure of gas usage equal to 1,000 cubic feet.
Burner tip	The point at which natural gas is used, such as a furnace, water heater or range.	Multiplier	Number applied to meter readings to determine actual consumption based on standard temperature and pressure conditions.
Ccf	A measure of gas usage equal to 100 cubic feet.	NGDC (Natural gas distribution company, formerly called local distribution company)	A state-regulated natural gas utility that owns the gas lines and equipment necessary to deliver natural gas to the consumer.
Chapter 56	The Public Utility Commission regulations that govern metering, billing and collections for residential gas and electricity service.	NGS (Natural gas supplier)	An entity that sells or arranges to sell natural gas to customers that is delivered through the distribution lines of a natural gas distribution company.
City gate	The point where interstate pipelines deliver gas into the natural gas distribution company's facilities.	Pass-through charge	Charges that Columbia Gas must pay to third parties for the ability to deliver natural gas to Columbia's system, and where applicable, Universal Service charges and Customer Choice charges.
Commodity charges	The charges for basic gas supply service, which is sold either by volume (Ccf or Mcf) or heating value (therms).	PUC (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission)	The state regulatory agency that provides oversight, policy guidance and direction to public utilities and suppliers.
Customer charge	A flat monthly charge to cover the natural gas distribution company's costs of doing business, such as maintaining the gas lines, meter reading and billing.	Price to compare	The commodity price of natural gas charged by the NGDC, which consumers may use to compare the NGDC's regulated commodity price to the non-regulated commodity price charged by an NGS.
Distribution charge	The charges for the delivery of natural gas from the point of receipt into the natural gas distribution company's system.		
Gas cost adjustment charges	The amount billed or credited each month to account for differences between projected and actual gas supply costs of the natural gas distribution company.		