

CUB CONSUMER ALERT:

BEWARE OF NEW GAS COMPANIES

Almost all consumers lose money

New, unregulated gas companies are trying to convince customers to switch their gas service. Aggressive sales people pitch these offers door to door, by mail and over the phone. But here are the facts: **92 percent of the plans offered so far by these companies are money losers, with the average customer losing over \$275.** Beware! The best bet may be to stick with your regulated gas company—Nicor.

HERE'S HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF:

- ✓ Don't give out your account number or other personal information to any salesperson at your door or over the phone.
- ✓ Don't sign up for any new gas offer on the spot. These are legally binding contracts. You may be charged a hefty termination fee if you want out.
- ✓ Call Nicor at 1-888-642-6748 to get on a Do Not Market list for your gas service if you don't want the new gas companies to bother you with sales pitches.
- ✓ Call CUB at 1-800-669-5556. CUB is keeping tabs on these companies and trying to identify marketing abuses. If they're in your neighborhood, call us immediately.

Who are these companies?

- Nicor Advanced Energy
– Lock 12, Price Guard, Flex
- U.S. Energy Savings Corp.
- Peoples Energy Services
- Integrys
- Nordic Energy Services
- Santanna Energy Services
- MXenergy
- Dominion Retail
- Direct Energy Services

92% of new gas plans so far are money losers. Average loss: \$270+.



This alert comes to you from the Citizens Utility Board (CUB), a non-profit utility watchdog created by the state legislature to fight for lower utility rates. For more information, call **1-800-669-5556** or visit www.citizensutilityboard.org.