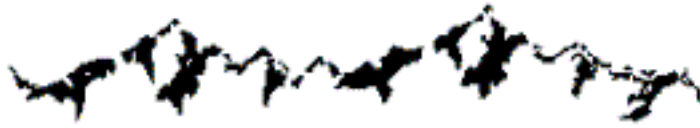


News Release



IPAMS
410 17th Street, Ste. 1920
Denver, CO 80202

Date: October 11, 2006
Contact: Jon Bargas
(303) 623-0987
jbargas@ipams.org

Improved Access to Public Lands Benefits Consumers

(DENVER) – The Independent Petroleum Association of Mountain States (IPAMS) today responded to an announcement from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) predicting lower heating bills for Americans this winter, calling the price break for consumers “a direct result of improved access to public lands where natural gas reserves are found.”

IPAMS Executive Director attributed the lower prices to an increase in natural gas supplies from the Intermountain West. “The recent price drops are a text book case of market forces at work. Our industry has responded to high prices by drilling more wells and increasing production, which in turn has caused prices to fall,” Smith said.

Smith also emphasized the need for continued access to non-park, non-wilderness public lands, where the vast majority of Western natural gas reserves are found. Currently, oil and gas development occurs on less than 1 percent of federally managed lands in the West.

“This year’s lower heating bills are a direct result of industry working with regulatory agencies at the state and local level to tap federal natural gas resources. Better access to natural gas supplies on federal land is helping to lower the price American consumers are paying for energy, while at the same time decreasing our dependence on unstable and unfriendly foreign energy sources,” said Smith.

According to the EIA report, families using natural gas to heat their homes should expect to pay an average of \$119 less during the upcoming winter months compared to last year, a decrease of about 13%. Natural gas is by far the most widely used source of fuel for residential heating. It is used for heating in 58% of U.S. households.

###

IPAMS, founded in 1974, is a non-profit trade association representing more than 400 independent oil and gas producers, service and supply companies, banking and financial institutions and industry consultants in the Intermountain West. More information on IPAMS and its members is available at www.ipams.org.