

# Idaho Natural Gas Utilities

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission regulates two natural gas utilities – Intermountain Gas Company and Avista Utilities. Questar Gas, based in Salt Lake City, provides service to a small number of customers in southeast Idaho, but since its Idaho service area is very small, Idaho has elected to allow the Utah Public Service Commission to regulate that utility’s activities in Idaho.

Intermountain Gas supplies natural gas to southern Idaho, serving approximately 265,000 customers. Avista Utilities, which also serves parts of Washington and Oregon, serves northern Idaho and has about 65,000 customers in Idaho.

When natural gas reached Idaho communities in the 1950s, Idaho local distribution companies received natural gas from the Northwest Pipeline Company of Salt Lake City. The pipeline serves much of the Pacific Northwest, connecting the San Juan Basin and other Southwest natural gas sources with the Northwest and Canada. Today the pipeline also transports Canadian natural gas from Alberta and British Columbia to U.S. customers in the Pacific Northwest and California.

The natural gas markets have, in 2004 and 2005, been very volatile. Some volatility is due to outside influences (weather, for example) and some is due to the effects of speculation in the marketplace. However, the primary driver of high prices is that demand has increased faster than supply in recent years.

Natural gas prices in Idaho have traditionally been lower than those in most of the U.S. due to the lack of sufficient transportation for Rocky Mountain and Canadian supplies, which serve Idaho, to major markets. In the past decade, completion of major pipelines connecting Idaho’s natural gas sources to those major markets has reduced this price advantage and subjected Idaho customers to the same gas price increases and volatility as felt in the rest of North America.

Another factor affecting natural gas prices is the increase of summer “off season” demand which is primarily due to significant increases in natural gas fueled electric generation. The resulting increase in summer prices has reduced, but not eliminated, the value of putting inexpensive summer supply into storage for winter use.

## Idaho Statewide Natural Gas Statistics by Utility

	Intermountain	Avista	Questar	Total
<b>No. of Customers,</b>	264,850	64,955	1,748	331,553
<b>% of total</b>	79.88	19.59	0.53	100.00
<b>Therms Sold</b>	481.25	119.36	1.96	602.57
<b>% of total</b>	79.87	19.80	0.33	100.00
<b>Annual Revenue (millions),</b>	253.14	66.67	1.57	321.38
<b>% of Total Revenue</b>	78.77	20.75	0.48	100.00

### Individual Utility Statistics

#### Intermountain Gas Company

	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total
<b>Customers</b>	238,991	25,747	11	102	264,850
<b>% of Total</b>	90.24	9.72	0.00	0.04	100.00
<b>Therms (millions)</b>	177.68	91.09	3.06	209.42	481.25
<b>% of Total</b>	36.92	18.92	0.63	43.51	100.00
<b>Revenue (millions)</b>	\$163.09	\$78.22	\$2.07	\$9.76	\$253.14
<b>% of Total</b>	64.42	30.90	0.82	3.86	100.00

#### Avista Utilities

	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total
<b>Customers</b>	57,482	7,358	105	10	64,955
<b>% of Total</b>	88.50	11.33	0.16	0.02	100.00%
<b>Therms (millions)</b>	40.88	23.62	2.35	52.51	119.36
<b>% of Total</b>	36.92	18.92	0.64	43.52	100.00
<b>Revenue (millions)</b>	\$41.92	\$21.85	\$1.95	\$0.95	\$66.67
<b>% of Total</b>	62.88	32.77	2.92	1.43	100.00

#### Questar Gas

	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation	Total
<b>Customers</b>	1,537	210	1	0	1,748
<b>% of Total</b>	87.93	12.02	0.057	0.00	100.00
<b>Therms (millions)</b>	1.20	0.76	0.00	0.00	1.96
<b>% of Total</b>	61.22	38.78	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Revenue (millions)</b>	\$0.99	\$0.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1.57
<b>% of Total</b>	63.06	36.94	0.00	0.00	100.00