



Senate president calls for shutoff moratorium extension

Senate President Joseph A. Montalbano, D-North Providence, has asked National Grid to voluntarily extend its moratorium on gas and electricity shut-offs on low-income customers until May 1.

The moratorium is currently scheduled to end on April 15. The extension would ensure that low-income households that are currently behind on their utility bills are able to maintain their service until warmer weather arrives.

“This heating season, we have seen sharp increases in home heating costs and an unprecedented number of utility bills going unpaid,” wrote Montalbano. “Last year, the number of people who had their source of heat turned off hit more than 20,000 households in Rhode Island. My hope is that you will continue to supply heat to families who are struggling to pay their bills until this heating season ends.”

Montalbano said that from information provided by the George Wiley Center, it appears that in 2008 Rhode Island will be at a record level of residential utility terminations for non-payment.

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