## HEATING BILL ASSISTANCE STILL AVAILABLE FROM HEAT NEW MEXICO FUND

(ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.) – Customers of New Mexico Gas Company struggling to pay balances overdue from the winter heating season still have an important source of help available: the company's HEAT New Mexico fund.

The seasonal charitable assistance fund — sponsored by NMGC and supported through contributions by customers, employees and company shareholders — still has funds available for qualifying customers.

"HEAT New Mexico is an important way we help customers in need," said Tommy Sanders, vice president of customer and support services. "While the fund generally is most active during the winter months, we want customers to know that help is still available this year and that it will remain so until the fund is depleted sometime this spring."

Sanders said demand for help from the fund may be down this year due to a warmer-than-normal winter and unusually low natural gas prices. "Still, there inevitably are customers who qualify for help but may not be aware of the fund," he said.

To apply for help, customers should:

• First apply for assistance from the state Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), which is administered by the New Mexico Human Services Department and various tribal and pueblo authorities, and then

• Visit <u>any Salvation Army office or participating HEAT New Mexico provider</u>, bringing with them a valid identification, a letter from LIHEAP certifying they applied for LIHEAP benefits, proof of income and a copy of their current NMGC bill.

NMGC's website includes additional information on both LIHEAP and HEAT New Mexico.