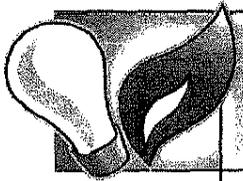


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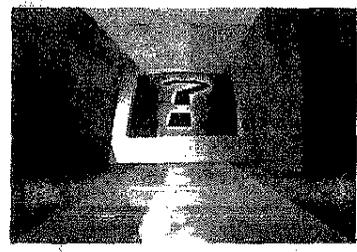
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July 16, 2004

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Every prudent purchasing agent knows how to select the best procurement options to meet their specific business needs at the lowest cost available. Deregulation, however, poses a significant challenge to buyers that do not understand how to differentiate among natural gas supplier bids, as there are more options available than before. This article describes several gas purchasing options and how you can increase your effectiveness in making prudent supply choices.

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For the last five years or so, a transformation has been reshaping the world of procurement as the Internet continues to change the way purchasing departments do business. E-sourcing, either through online auctions or exchanges, is quickly becoming one of the easiest ways for companies to boost their bottom-line. This article views how e-sourcing generally works and the savings opportunities offered to corporate energy purchasers.

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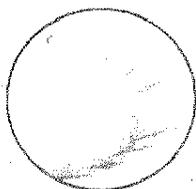


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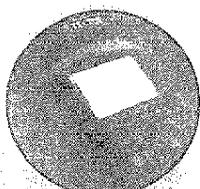
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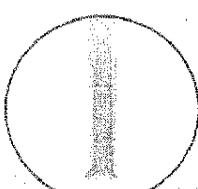
A GUIDE TO NATURAL GAS SAFETY IN YOUR HOME



Natural
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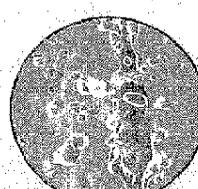
Carbon
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Home Heating
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Today, more and more families are relying on natural gas to heat their homes as well as to heat water, cook meals and dry clothes. In fact, according to the American Gas Association, use of natural gas has increased 35 percent over the past ten years. This is not surprising when you consider that natural gas is the cleanest and most efficient fossil fuel available.

As with any fuel source, it is important to observe proper safety practices. Nicor Gas wants to share with you these important tips to help keep your family safe at home.


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