



SEPTEMBER 2026

August 2026	Gas Rate \$ 1.92/GJ
September 2026	Gas Rate \$ 1.47/GJ

THE MYTH OF THE "FREE" LOCATE REQUEST

Locate requests are often described as “free” because the person planning the excavation usually does not pay a fee at the time the request is submitted. In practice, however, the process is not free at all. A locate request triggers a coordinated system of contact centre operations, digital ticketing, mapping, screening, dispatch, field work, marking, documentation, quality assurance, and program administration. In Alberta, utility members may respond by marking facilities, providing records, issuing a clearance, or arranging a site meeting. The public-facing price may be zero, but the actual cost is borne across the buried infrastructure ecosystem and ultimately recovered through annual member fees.

How the Locate Request Process Works

A single locate request is best understood as a multi-step service chain rather than a simple administrative form. First, the excavator defines the ground disturbance area and submits a locate request. Utility Safety Partners then reviews the request, creates a ticket, and automatically notifies participating utility owners whose assets may be affected. Those owners must interpret the request, compare it against their mapping and asset records, determine whether a field response is required, assign work, and ensure the response is completed within the required timeline. Depending on the circumstances, the response may include office clearance, field markings, a site meeting, additional investigation, or coordination with an alternate locate service provider.

Every Locate Request that Meota receives goes through a ‘handling process’ that involves:

Receipt of a Locate – time processing/reading and interpreting emails/tickets and requests including phone contact to schedule on-site marking.

Mapping/Records/Screening – every locate request must be compared to our GIS system to identify existing infrastructure.

Field Locating – Dispatch of a Service Technician

Field locating is the most visible part of the process and often the largest direct cost. Costs include locating equipment, fleet trucks, fuel, labour, marking paint, marking flags, mapping books/reference.

Training – Accurate locating requires training – not only on equipment use, but also on standards, colour codes, record interpretation and documentation.

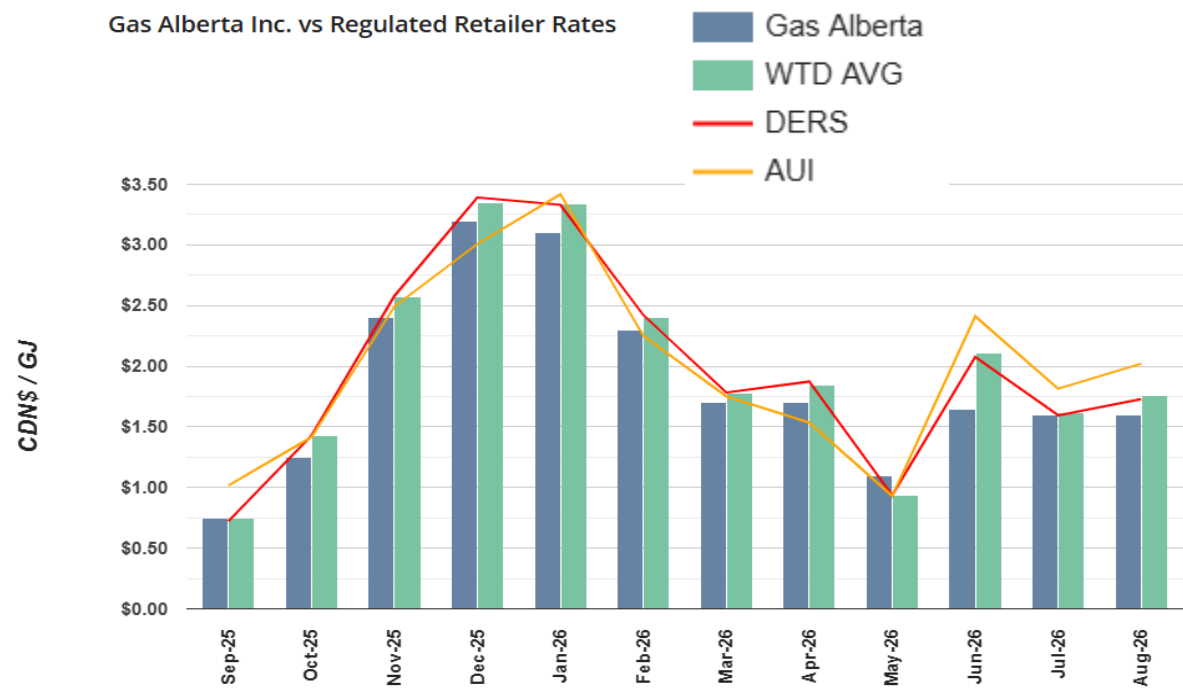
Overhead Costs Include – scheduling, IT support, administration and the risk component.

In 2025, Meota staff spend over 300 hours locating existing lines for our members. Additionally, they spent over 80 hours attending to emergency call outs such as hit lines, gas odours, gas leaks and other call outs. Annual activities such as line walking/leak detection average about 350 hours annual, ensuring any failures are detected before incidents occur. In 2025, Meota staff completed 392 locate requests which on average cost Meota approximately \$90.00 per locate request.

Last year, Utility Safety Partners processed 430,803 locate requests for a total of \$ 11.08 per locate request. Its Operating Costs were \$ 4,772,609 in that year. These costs are just to process and dispatch locate requests within Alberta. The costs of performing and documenting these requests are born by the utilities.

With reference to Utility Safety Partners article, “The Myth of the “Free” Locate Request, by Mike Sullivan, President of Utility Safety Partners

GAS RATES IN ALBERTA



Current Utility Delivery Costs in Alberta					
Component	Effective Date	ATCO DERS N	ATCO DERS S	AUI	Wtd Avg
Commodity Charges					
GCFR/GCRR (\$/GJ)	September 2026	\$ 1.729	\$ 1.729	\$ 2.021	\$ 1.758
Fixed Charges					
-Fixed Delivery Charge (\$/month)	August 2026	\$30.907	\$27.156	\$67.952	\$32.924
-Other Charges (\$/month)	August 2026	\$ 11.50	\$ 11.50		
Total Fixed Charges (\$/month)	August 2026	\$42.408	\$38.657	\$67.952	\$43.274
Variable Charges					
-Variable Delivery Charge (\$/GJ)	August 2026	\$ 1.049	\$ 1.000	\$ 2.948	\$ 1.217
-Transmission Charge (\$/GJ)	August 2026	\$ 1.357	\$ 1.357	\$ 0.869	\$ 1.308
-Other Charges (\$/GJ)	August 2026	\$ 0.091	\$ 0.091		
Total Variable Charges (\$/GJ)	August 2026	\$ 2.497	\$ 2.448	\$ 3.817	\$ 2.607
Franchise Fee (Avg)	August 2026	37%	11.11%	27%	

Actual prices are based on a volume weighted average of transacted prices for all physically delivered natural gas at the Alberta AB-NIT market center.

Disclaimer: All information provided is deemed reliable, but is not guaranteed and should be independently verified. Source: GasAlberta.com

If you smell gas inside or outside, or hit a gas line, contact us immediately.

DEFINITIONS

Fixed Charge – This is the monthly flat rate charged to recover a portion of the total operating costs.

Cost of Gas – The cost of natural gas charged to Meota Gas Co-op from its wholesaler, GasAlberta. Meota does not benefit from any increase or decrease in the rate charged per gigajoule (GJ) of natural gas. Meota operates as a not-for-profit cooperative.

Delivery Charge – This charge is generated to cover the costs of delivering natural gas to Meota's customers/members and the costs for operating the cooperative. This fee is charged on the number of GJ's consumed.

Gas Loss Charge – This is a 'shrinkage' charge that is due to the loss, consumption or unaccounted-for volume of gas within the distribution system. Shrinkage is encountered through unavoidable leakage, metering errors or unidentified theft. Minor variances occur due to the application of regulations for calculating the thermal energy of gas delivered.

System Improvement Fee – A monthly fixed fee to fund the replacement of main gas line distribution to ensure continued safe and secure natural gas supply.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Cheque – by mail or deliver to office. An after-hours mailbox is available.

On Line – Find Meota Gas Co-op as a payee. When referencing your account number, your financial institution may require more than your 4-digit account number. If so, please add zeros before or after your account number. (ie. 0004567 or 45670000)

E-Transfer – payments may be e-transferred to admin@meotagas.com. Please reference your account number in the notes. *Note: Meota Gas is set up for auto-deposit for e-transfers.

Auto Debit – Auto Debit payments are Meota's preferred method. Payments will be processed on the billing due date. If you wish to sign up for Auto Debit, kindly contact our office.

At your Bank – Most financial institutions can process in-person payments.

Payment Terms - A late payment of 2% will apply on amounts outstanding after the due date. An NSF Charge will be assessed for dishonoured payments.



Alberta One Call is now called Utility Safety Partners

Any ground disturbance on your property requires locates booked through Utility Safety Partners. Landscaping, new fencing or decks, or even planting a garden is ground disturbance and can cause damage to a buried utility. Some utilities are buried only centimeters below the surface.

The results of a contact with a buried utility can be loss of an essential service for you or your neighbours, costly repairs, and most importantly serious injury or death.