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Ukraine Far From Paying Off Gas Debt

By The Moscow Times

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Ukraine is far from paying off hundreds of millions of dollars in debt to Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom despite several payments, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

"We have received several small installments for gas supplies in August, but it is too early to speak about complete payment of the debt," spokesman Sergei Kupriyanov told Prime.

Gazprom chief executive Alexei Miller said last week that Kiev owed $882 million for supplies in August, raising fears of another politically tinged gas dispute.

Ukraine's energy minister said Tuesday that his country's state gas company, Naftogaz, had started paying off the debt, and that the installments would be "enough to settle this matter."

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