### Consumer News... For You! January 2023

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor Consumer News... For You!

# **New Year's Resolutions**

January

2023

Are you still looking for a New Year's Resolution, and hoping to find one that's easy to keep? We have some ideas:

- Check your toilet for leaks once a month.
- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth.
- Run the dishwasher only when fully loaded.
- Look into new technology if you plan to water the lawn this summer.

Our website has more water savings tips for the home or business year-round.

### **Staying Warm**

Winter heating season is underway but it is not too late to make your home more energy efficient and <u>save money</u> on your bills.

- Set ceiling fans to rotate clockwise. This will push warm air down and help keep it in the room.
- Close the damper on fireplaces when they aren't in use.
- Use towels and blankets on drafty doors and windows.
- Keep vents unblocked. Make sure they're not covered by rugs or furniture.
- · Close doors to rooms not in use frequently.

Safety is especially important at this time of year. If you use a space heater, use extreme caution.

If you face difficulty with your bills, contact your utility directly to make payment arrangements. Additionally, Indiana's <u>2-1-1 help line</u> can direct consumers to local resources for financial assistance and to their county intake offices for the Energy Assistance Program. Township trustees and certain utilities also offer assistance to consumers in need.

## **Case Updates**

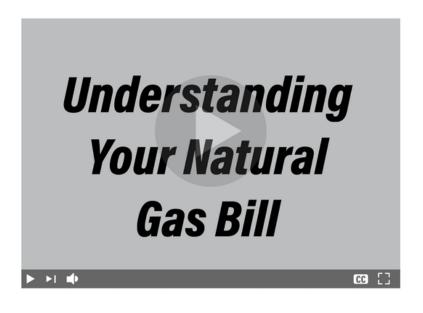
#### Energy

- CenterPoint Energy's quarterly <u>Fuel Cost Adjustment</u> request would raise a monthly residential electric bill (1,000 kWh) by \$13.20. The OUCC's recommendations would reduce that amount to \$3.69 by spreading the cost recovery over a longer-than-usual timeframe. The case is pending before the IURC.
- Duke Energy has <u>received approval</u> for its quarterly Fuel Cost Adjustment. AES Indiana's <u>request</u> is pending with OUCC testimony due on Jan. 23.
- In the NIPSCO electric rate case:

- An IURC public field hearing is set for Jan. 4 at Valparaiso High School, at 6pm local time.
- The OUCC is inviting written public comments through Jan. 13.
- Testimony from the OUCC's technical witnesses is due Jan. 20.
- An IURC evidentiary hearing in the Citizens Gas of Westfield <u>rate case</u> is scheduled to start on Jan. 26. The OUCC's recommendations would cap the increase at less than one-third of the utility's proposed amount.
- Written consumer comments are invited through Feb. 9 in the Fountaintown Gas Co. rate case.

#### Water/Wastewater

- The <u>City of East Chicago</u> has filed a new rate case seeking a 3-phase increase for monthly water rates. Under the utility's request, a monthly residential water bill for 5,000 gallons would rise from to \$18.66 to \$40.39 when fully implemented in 2025. OUCC testimony will likely be due in late March.
- The <u>settlement agreement</u> in the Brown County Water Utility rate case has received Commission approval. The agreement will limit the increase for 5,000 gallons of usage to \$2.68.
- The IURC has scheduled a Jan. 13 evidentiary hearing on the Evansville municipal water utility's <u>financing request</u>.
- An evidentiary hearing in the Jackson County Water Utility rate case is set for Feb. 7.
- The OUCC is inviting <u>consumer comments</u> on the <u>B&B Water Project</u> rate case. They are due by Feb. 9.



If you've ever wondered why your natural gas bill includes a "supply charge" or a "delivery charge," you're not alone. The OUCC frequently receives consumer questions about gas bill line items, especially during the winter. We have put together a <u>brief video</u> answering those questions and covering what the charges are about.



To represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, & creative problem solving.

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