



Spring Updates

Indiana's winter disconnection moratorium ended in March. However, a number of the state's energy utilities are voluntarily suspending shutoffs through mid-May. If a consumer cannot pay a bill on time and in full, it is crucial to contact the utility sooner rather than later to seek a payment arrangement you can afford.

It is also important to be aware of spring scams, including phone calls from utility impostors. If a caller demands money over the phone immediately & threatens to shut your services off if you don't pay, hang up! An IURC-regulated utility must provide written notice several days before disconnecting a customer for non-payment. You can always call the utility at the number on your bill with any questions about your account status.



Tax Relief

The [tax relief package](#) (HEA 1002) approved by the Indiana General Assembly & signed into law by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb will also reduce utility rates this year. The new law repeals the state's Utility Receipts Tax & directs utilities to file rate adjustments with the IURC by May 1. The OUCC will review these reductions with the tax repeal taking effect July 1. Utilities outside of the IURC's jurisdiction are also required to adjust their rates to reflect the changes.

The Indiana Supreme Court has [reversed](#) a portion of Duke Energy's 2020 rate order, which is expected to lead to at least \$27 million in annual customer savings. The appeal focused on a portion of the Commission's order dealing with coal ash removal costs, with the Supreme Court upholding & enforcing the state law prohibiting retroactive ratemaking.

Duke Energy Rates



NIPSCO Gas Settlement Agreement



A pending settlement agreement in the Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) gas rate case would [reduce](#) the utility's request by approximately \$38 million. It would also set the monthly residential customer charge at \$16.50, rather than the \$24.50 charge the utility had requested. The OUCC, industrial customers, & NIPSCO have filed the agreement with the IURC, which may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers. For an overview of a rate case's steps, please see the OUCC's [timeline](#).

An IURC [public field hearing](#) in the Community Utilities of Indiana (CUII) rate case is scheduled for Apr. 12. It will start at 6:00 p.m. local time at Boone Grove High School in Porter County. Comments presented at the hearing carry the same weight as written consumer comments, which the OUCC is inviting through Apr. 19. CUII provides water & sewer service in parts of 4 northwest Indiana counties.



Additional Case Updates

Energy

- In our [proposed order](#), the OUCC continues to recommend denial of CenterPoint Energy's proposal to build & operate a new \$323 million generating facility in Posey County, noting that it is not the most cost-effective way to meet customers' future electricity needs. A Commission decision is expected later this year.
- The OUCC & industrial consumers are seeking a [rate credit](#) of nearly \$42 million for NIPSCO electric customers, stemming from a 2020 incident that shut down 2 units at the Schahfer Generating Station.
- The OUCC has filed notices of appeal on excess distributed generation tariffs for Indiana Michigan Power (I&M), AES Indiana, & NIPSCO. The Indiana Court of Appeals [reversed & remanded](#) the IURC order on CenterPoint Energy's excess distributed generation tariff in January. Briefs on CenterPoint Energy's proposal are now pending before the Indiana Supreme Court.
- The OUCC is recommending [denial](#) of Duke Energy's proposed \$1.9 billion infrastructure plan, citing flawed data & methodologies, failure to meet specific legal requirements, & proposed projects that are unnecessary.
- Community Natural Gas Co. has filed a new [rate case](#). The utility provides service in 10 southern Indiana counties.
- Quarterly gas cost adjustments were recently approved for [South Eastern Indiana Natural Gas Co.](#), [Fountaintown Gas](#), & [Ohio Valley Gas](#).

Water/Wastewater

- The deadline for OUCC testimony in the [American Suburban Utilities](#) (ASU) rate case has been extended to Apr. 11.
- A Commission order has been issued in the [Evansville](#) municipal water rate case.
- Public comments are invited on the [St. Anthony Water](#) rate request.



Did you know that planting a tree or putting in a deck can damage underground utility lines? Or that underground lines are often shallower than one would expect? Indiana law requires everyone to contact 8-1-1 at least 2 business days before digging, no matter how small the project. There is no charge for having the ground marked for lines, and the 8-1-1 call center is open around the clock. You can also complete the form at [Indiana811.org](#).

OUR MISSION

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

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