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[State of Indiana](#)

Consumer News... For You! The OUCC's August 2019 Newsletter

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

**CONSUMER NEWS... FOR YOU!
AUGUST 2019**



SUMMER WARMTH

Even if you don't notice small differences in your home's temperature, your thermostat will. That can make your air conditioner work harder than it needs to. Things you can do right now to save energy include:

1. Waiting until after sundown to do laundry.
2. Cooking with the microwave or grilling out instead of using the stove or oven.
3. Making sure rugs & furniture don't block vents.
4. Checking your HVAC filter and replacing it if it's dirty.
5. Unplugging phone chargers & other small appliances if you're not using them.

On especially hot days, you can take additional steps to stay safe by following [tips](#) from the Indiana Dept. of Homeland Security.

DUKE ENERGY RATE CASE

The OUCC has requested a series of public field hearings throughout Duke Energy's service territory. The motion is pending before the IURC, with case updates to be posted on the [OUCC's website](#). An Oct. 30 deadline is set for the OUCC's testimony with our staff now reviewing Duke Energy's filings. A Commission decision on the utility's \$395 million request is expected in 2020.



I&M COMMENTS STILL WELCOME

If you're an Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) customer, you have until Aug. 13 to submit [written comments](#) on the utility's [rate request](#). Testimony from the OUCC & intervening parties is due on Aug. 20.

ADDITIONAL CASE UPDATES

Indianapolis Power & Light Co. (IPL) is requesting approval of a \$1.2 billion [infrastructure plan](#). OUCC analysts & attorneys have started reviewing the proposal.

The IURC has approved the settlement agreement in the [Citizens sewer](#) rate case.

The IURC evidentiary hearing in the [NIPSCO electric](#) rate case has concluded. Written closing arguments are due in late August and early September.

In addition to regulatory matters, the OUCC participates in certain cases before the state's appellate courts. A recent Indiana Supreme Court opinion upheld an IURC order on NIPSCO's electric infrastructure plan, preventing cost shifts to residential customers. OUCC attorney Jeffrey Reed (right) participated in oral arguments before the court.



8/11 IS 811 DAY!

8/11 is not only Aug. 11, but it's also the three-digit number to call before doing any digging on your property. State law requires a call to [8-1-1](#) at least two business days before digging so your underground lines can be marked at no charge, which can prevent a serious or even fatal accident. If you'd rather make the request online, you can do so at [811now.com](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

As much as 50 percent of the water used for lawn irrigation in the US is wasted. If you water the lawn at your home or business, the OUCC has some helpful [reminders](#). If you have a built-in sprinkler system, the US EPA's info on [irrigation systems](#) & the [latest technology](#) can help you irrigate as efficiently as possible.



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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