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[State of Indiana](#)

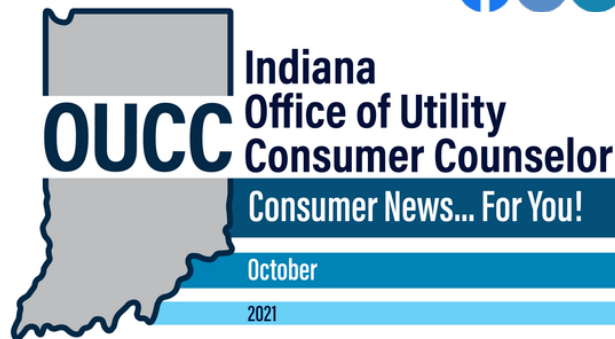
Consumer News... For You! October 2021

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DID YOU KNOW?

The OUCC's staff worked vigilantly throughout the State of Indiana's last fiscal year, participating in nearly 400 docketed IURC cases, along with additional cases before state appellate courts & at the federal level. Our newly released [Annual Report](#) has more details while summarizing our accomplishments on behalf of Hoosier ratepayers.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Applications are being accepted now for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), along with the newly created Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). The Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority's (IHCD's) [interactive map](#) shows where consumers can sign up for these federally funded programs in each county.

Winter & Water Assistance Programs \$

Public Field Hearing



CENTERPOINT ENERGY HEARING

An IURC public field hearing on CenterPoint Energy's [electric generation proposal](#) is set for Oct. 13 at the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville. It will start at 6 pm, local time, in the Locust Room. The OUCC is also inviting written consumer comments. The utility is seeking approval to build two natural gas-fired turbines on its A.B Brown property in Posey County, along with proposed coal ash remediation projects.

NIPSCO RATE CASE

[Northern Indiana Public Service Co.](#) (NIPSCO) has filed a new base rate case for its natural gas utility. The proposal would raise gas rates by \$115 million, while raising the flat, monthly residential customer charge from \$14.00 to \$24.50. Consumer comments are invited with the OUCC planning to file testimony in January. A Commission order is expected next summer.

NIPSCO Gas Rate Case



ADDITIONAL CASE UPDATES

- Settlement agreements on [NIPSCO's](#) energy efficiency plans have received approval.
- The OUCC recommends denial of [Duke Energy's](#) proposed excess distributed generation tariff.
- We recommend approval of [Hamilton Southeastern Utilities'](#) proposed sale to the City of Fishers.
- [American Suburban Utilities](#) customers in Tippecanoe County will receive refunds & a reduction in their current monthly rate.
- A settlement agreement in the [Bloomington](#) water rate case is due Oct. 6.
- Our analysis in the [Evansville](#) water rate case supports a lower increase than requested.
- We have reached a settlement agreement on [Gibson Water Authority's](#) rate request.
- Our testimony in the [Indiana Michigan Power](#) (I&M) rate case is due Oct. 12.



CONNECTING HOOSIERS

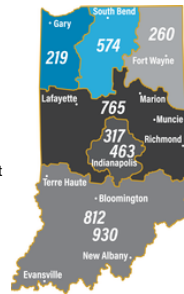
Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch & the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) have launched the Indiana Connectivity Program. It's a new initiative to bring internet service to unserved & underserved homes & businesses throughout Indiana. If you believe you would benefit, visit [OCRA's website](#) or call the Indiana Broadband Connect Center toll-free at 1-833-639-8522.

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

If your phone number starts with 219 or 574, you will be required to include the area code when making local calls [starting on Oct. 24](#).

More than 80 area codes in 35 states are converting to ten-digit dialing this month to help with implementing the 988 code for reading the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. 988 goes into effect in July 2022. The Lifeline's current toll-free number (1-800-273-TALK) will still work after the transition.

This change will not affect telephone rates. It also will not affect 911 & other 3-digit numbers.



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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