



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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## **American Suburban Utilities rate case: Consumer comments invited**

Do you want to voice your opinion on the rate increase American Suburban Utilities, Inc. (ASU) is requesting? Here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments from ASU customers through Thursday, December 31, 2015. ASU is a privately owned utility providing sewage disposal service to approximately 2,500 customers in Tippecanoe County.

In its pending request before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), ASU is seeking approval of a three-phase increase that would ultimately raise its flat, monthly residential sewer rate from \$47.50 to \$93.36. ASU has filed testimony and exhibits stating that it is seeking the increases to pay for major capital improvements. The improvements include:

- Substantial expansion of the utility's Carriage Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant (from its current 1.5 million gallons per day capacity to 4 million, with additional tankage for 6 million),
- The "Klondike Road Project" (proposed relocation of a large sewer required by road widening), and
- The recently completed "Big 3 Sewer Project" (which included elimination of 3 aging lift stations and an aging sewer line, along with rerouting certain sewage flows for treatment).

Under the utility's request, the monthly residential sewer rate would rise:

- From \$47.50 to \$59.32 when an IURC order is issued,
- To \$73.16 after the Klondike Road Project and first phase of the Carriage Estates Plant Project are complete (expected no earlier than January 2017), and
- To \$93.36 when the second phase of the Carriage Estates Plant Project is complete (expected no earlier than July 2018).

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is reviewing the utility's request and has not yet taken a position in this case. The OUCC anticipates completing its review and filing its testimony with the Commission on January 8, 2016.

**(Continued)**

ASU's current sewer rates took effect in 2000. For more information on the case, including the utility's testimony, please visit [www.in.gov/oucc/2736.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2736.htm).

Consumers who wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), or by mail, email or fax:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South  
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- email: [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than December 31, 2015 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be and included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name**, **mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44676.**"

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC hearing will be held on a future date to be determined.

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(IURC Cause No. 44676)

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is 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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