



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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Apple Valley Utilities Rate Case: Public Hearing January 7 in Lowell

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting consumer comments on the request of Apple Valley Utilities, Inc. for increases in its water and sewer rates.

Consumers may comment by:

1. Speaking at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing in Lowell on Wednesday, January 7, 2015, or
2. Sending written comments to the OUCC by Thursday, January 15, 2015.

The January 7 IURC public field hearing will be held at Lowell Middle School (19250 Cline Avenue in Lowell) at 6:00 p.m. local time. The OUCC will conduct an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m. local time, immediately before the field hearing.

- Oral and written consumer comments will be accepted during the hearing.
- Comments carry equal weight whether they are oral or written, and will become part of the case's evidentiary record.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions during the field hearing. However, OUCC and IURC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing.

Apple Valley Utilities, a privately owned utility providing water and sewer service to approximately 270 customers in southern Lake County, is seeking rate increases for the first time since 1995. According to its filing, the utility is requesting the changes due to increases in operating and maintenance costs.

A flat, monthly residential water bill would rise from \$21.02 to \$28.37 under the utility's request, while the flat, monthly residential sewer bill would increase from \$48.58 to \$70.30.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), has not yet taken a position in this case and is scheduled to file its report and recommendations on January 22, 2015.

(Continued)

Apple Valley's filing with the IURC is available online at www.in.gov/oucc/2809.htm.

Consumers who are unable to attend the field hearing but wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at 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
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

Written comments the OUCC receives by January 15, 2015 will be filed with the Commission 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. 44551-U.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments may call the OUCC toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(IURC Cause No. 44551-U)

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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