



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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Auburn municipal electric rate case: Consumer comments invited, June 11 hearing scheduled

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting consumer comments on the City of Auburn's request for an electric rate increase.

Consumers may comment by:

1. Speaking at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing on Wednesday, June 11, 2014, or
2. Sending written comments to the OUCC by the close of business on Monday, July 7, 2014.

The June 11 IURC public field hearing will be held at the Auburn City Council Chambers (210 E. 9th St.) at 6:00 p.m. The OUCC will conduct an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m., 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.

Auburn's rates are the lowest among the 14 electric utilities under IURC jurisdiction. The utility's current base rates were approved in 1989, and the utility is allowed to adjust rates quarterly to recover changes in wholesale power costs.

According to its testimony and exhibits, Auburn is seeking the rate increase due to higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for a five-year capital improvement plan. Projects identified in the city's testimony and exhibits include substation upgrades, distribution and transmission line upgrades, and new infrastructure including poles, conductors and vehicles.

The utility's proposal would raise its total annual operating revenues by nearly \$2.8 million and increase the residential bill for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month from \$69.58 to \$83.60.

(Continued)

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing the utility's request and has not yet taken a position in this case. The OUCC is scheduled to complete its review and file testimony with the Commission on July 10, 2014.

Metal Technologies of Indiana, Inc. has intervened in this case and is also scheduled to file testimony on July 10, 2014.

More information on this case, including the utility's testimony, is available online at www.in.gov/oucc/2751.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 July 7, 2014 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. 44472.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(IURC Cause No. 44472)

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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