



For Immediate Release

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Brown County Water Utility rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the rate changes requested by Brown County Water Utility, Inc., here's your opportunity.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing the utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 26, 2019.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through July 19, 2019.

Brown County Water Utility is a not-for-profit entity providing service to more than 5,300 retail customers. Its current base rates were approved in 2015.

The utility's proposal would raise its overall rates by nearly \$302,000, an 8.8 percent increase over current revenues. However, rates for Brown County Water Utility residential customers would *decrease* by 14.2 percent. Rates for Brown County Water Utility commercial and industrial customers would rise by 35.6 percent, while wholesale rates charged to the Town of Nashville would rise by 154.1 percent under the utility's request.

According to its testimony, Brown County Water is seeking the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for capital improvements including main, hydrant, valve, meter, and service line replacements.

The Town of Nashville has formally intervened in the case. Any testimony it may file is also due on July 26, 2019.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, by email at uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov, or by mail at:

Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than July 19, 2019 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record.

(Continued)

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45210.**" Please do not include account numbers and other sensitive information. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled for September 19, 2019 at the PNC Center (101 W. Washington St.) in Indianapolis. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses. A final decision in the case is expected in 2019.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2505.htm. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/2877.htm

(IURC Cause No. 45210)

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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