



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CenterPoint Energy Generation Case: Consumer Comments Invited** *IURC Public Hearing Set for Oct. 13 in Evansville*

If you are a CenterPoint Energy customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending electric generation proposal, you have the chance to do so.

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 Oct. 15, 2021. However, a motion is being filed to extend the deadline to Nov. 19, 2021.

In addition, the IURC will hold a public field hearing in the case on Oct. 13, 2021, in Evansville.

### **Written consumer comments**

While using its legal and technical resources to review CenterPoint Energy's request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers.

Comments are welcome via the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov), or by mail at:

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

Comments received by Oct. 13, 2021 will be: 1) Considered by the OUCC preparing its testimony and 2) Filed with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. This deadline will be extended if the OUCC's testimonial date is rescheduled.

Written comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 45564**" or CenterPoint Energy. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

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## Public field hearing

The IURC's public field hearing on CenterPoint Energy's request is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 13, 2021, at the Old National Events Plaza (715 Locust St.) in Evansville.

The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m., Evansville time, in the Locust Room. Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations.

The field hearing's sole purpose is to receive public testimony.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments during the hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Oct. 13.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, CenterPoint Energy filed testimony and exhibits in June 2021.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties.
- No final decisions will be made at the field hearing.

The OUCC's informational video offers an overview at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMh9mkYwPO4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMh9mkYwPO4).

## Case overview

In testimony and exhibits filed in June 2021, CenterPoint Energy requested IURC approval to build, own, and operate the following projects:

- A new electric generation facility in Posey County. The facility would include two natural gas-fired combustion turbines, with an estimated cost of \$323 million. The turbines would produce approximately 460 megawatts (MW) of capacity and would replace the coal-fired, 490 MW A. B. Brown facility, which is scheduled for retirement in 2023.
- A facility on the Ohio River to store, load, and transport dry ash from its coal-fired generating facilities. The project's estimated cost is \$12 million.
- New ponds at the Brown and Culley generation facilities to store wastewater and coal-pile runoff, at a cost of about \$19 million. The utility states in testimony that the ponds and dry ash storage and transportation facility are needed for compliance with the US EPA's coal combustion residuals rule.

The utility is seeking approval to recover project costs through electric rates. In its testimony, CenterPoint Energy estimates that the new natural gas-fueled facility would add about \$23 to a typical residential customer's monthly electric bill, in the absence of any offsetting factors. However, the overall rate effects from changes to the utility's generation mix will be explored more closely in its next general rate case. CenterPoint Energy's electric utility is required to file a general rate case by the end of 2023. Rate recovery of the coal ash projects would begin sooner.

As it reviews CenterPoint Energy's request, the OUCC is focused primarily on whether the proposal would give the utility the most cost-effective means of meeting its customers' long-term electric reliability and resilience needs, along with the most cost-effective means of complying with federal environmental laws.

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Several additional parties have intervened in this case. They include the Sierra Club, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Sunrise Coal, CountryMark Refining and Logistics, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana. Any testimony from the intervenors is currently due on Oct. 15, 2021; however, this deadline may be extended.

CenterPoint Energy provides electric service to approximately 145,000 customers in seven southwestern Indiana counties.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. If an agreement is reached, the settling parties are required to present evidence showing it to be in the public interest. The IURC may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-gas-generation/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-gas-generation/). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/news](http://www.in.gov/oucc/news).

(IURC Cause No. 45564)

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.