



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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Ellettsville municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited

Do you want to voice your opinion on the Town of Ellettsville's proposed water rate increase? Here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments from Ellettsville customers through Wednesday, November 18, 2015.

In its pending request before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), the town is seeking permission to raise water rates and to issue up to approximately \$1.7 million in long-term debt.

According to its testimony and exhibits, Ellettsville's request would raise the monthly water rate for a residential customer inside town limits from \$23.36 to \$29.11 if the customer used 5,000 gallons. A customer with the same usage outside the town's corporate limits would see his or her water bill rise from \$28.74 to \$29.11. The town's proposal would eliminate the current surcharge for out-of-town customers.

Ellettsville states in testimony that it is seeking the changes primarily to allow for construction of a second supply line from the City of Bloomington that would increase its daily supply and improve system reliability. Other reasons cited in the utility's case include line replacements and extensions, new vehicles, GIS mapping, new hydrants, upgraded meters, and the portion of the proposed new Town Hall to be used by the water utility.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is reviewing the town'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 November 25, 2015.

For more information on the case, including the town's testimony, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2465.htm.

Ellettsville's current water rates were approved in 2009. Only the town's water rates are at issue in this case. State law does not give the IURC jurisdiction over municipal sewer utilities; locally elected city and town councils approve those utilities' rates.

Consumers who 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

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than November 18, 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. 44670.**"

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

A technical evidentiary hearing in this case is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at the PNC Center (101 W. Washington St.) in Indianapolis. While IURC evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of witnesses who have filed technical, written testimony on behalf of the case's formal parties.

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(IURC Cause No. 44670)

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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