



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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Kingsbury Utility Corp. rate cases: Consumer comments invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments from Kingsbury Utility Corporation customers on the utility’s pending rate requests.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is reviewing the utility’s requests and has not yet taken a position in these cases. The OUCC anticipates completing its review and filing its reports with the Commission on May 11, 2015.

Kingsbury Utility Corporation is a privately owned utility providing water and sewer service to approximately 100 residential and commercial customers in LaPorte County. It is seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$700,000 in long-term debt while proposing a two-phase rate increase:

	Current Monthly Residential Rate	Requested Rate Upon IURC Order (Phase 1)	Requested Rate Upon Debt Approval (Phase 2)
Water (5,000 gallons)	\$18.75	\$50.90	\$48.45
Sewer (Flat Rate)	\$32.69	\$50.52	\$61.29

According to its filings, the utility is requesting the changes due to increases in operating and maintenance costs and to pay for a number of capital improvements that involve replacing and repairing aging infrastructure.

Kingsbury’s current water and sewer rates were approved in 2008.

For more information on these cases, including the utility’s filings, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2515.htm.

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

Written comments the OUCC receives by May 4, 2015 will be filed with the Commission and included in the cases’ formal evidentiary records. Comments should include the consumer’s **name**, **mailing address**, and a reference to “**IURC Cause Nos. 44589-U and 44590-U.**”

(Continued)

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

Kingsbury Utilities Corporation is seeking the rate increases through the state's Small Utility Filing Procedure, which is available to utilities with fewer than 5,000 customers and is designed to reduce the time and expense involved with regulatory filings. Savings are gained by allowing utility staff to use standardized forms and the utility's resulting need for less assistance from rate consultants or attorneys.

The standard for OUCC and IURC reviews on small utility filings is the same that applies to traditional utility filings. The OUCC conducts its review on behalf of consumers and presents its written report and recommendations to the IURC with regard to the utility's request. The IURC then reviews the evidence and determines what is in the public interest regarding the filing (a balancing of utility and customer interests). A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement would require IURC approval. The OUCC attempts to reach a compromise where possible in each IURC case on behalf of ratepayers.

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(IURC Cause Nos. 44589-U, 44590-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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