



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Knightstown municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited**

If you would like to comment on the Knightstown Municipal Water Utility's proposed rate increase, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the request through January 26, 2017. The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is scheduled to file its report in this case on February 2, 2017.

Knightstown's current water rates were approved in 2008. Under the town's pending request, the monthly water bill for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons would rise from \$30.25 to \$42.24. The utility cites increased operating and maintenance costs in its filing with the IURC.

More information on this case is available at [www.in.gov/oucc/2516.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2516.htm).

Consumers who wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://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](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than January 26, 2017 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its report and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name**, **mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44837-U**."

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

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.

Knightstown is seeking the water rate increase 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 all utility consumers while the IURC's review is conducted on behalf of the public interest (a balancing of utility and customer interests). A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

(IURC Cause No. 44837-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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