



For Immediate Release

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Ellettsville Municipal Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited

IURC Hearing Scheduled for August 10 in Ellettsville

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) continues to invite public comments on Ellettsville Municipal Water's pending rate request.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Ellettsville, Ind. on Aug. 10, 2023.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. The OUCC's report is due Aug. 29, 2023.

Written Consumer Comments

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:

Public Comments
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Friday, Aug. 22, 2023**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45900-U**" or **Ellettsville Water**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearing

The IURC's public field hearing on Ellettsville's request is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023, at the Ellettsville Town Hall – Meeting Room (1150 W. Guy McCown Dr.). The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

The field hearing's sole purpose is to receive public testimony. No final decisions will be made at the hearing.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Aug. 22, 2023.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input.
- 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.

(Continued)

Case Overview

Current base rates for Ellettsville's water utility received IURC approval in 2016. Rates have since been adjusted to account for changes in wholesale water costs.

According to its filing, the utility is seeking the rate change due to increased operating and maintenance costs, and for upcoming infrastructure improvements. Monthly water charges for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons would increase from \$31.92 to \$42.60 under the town's request, including the fire protection surcharge.

Only the town's water rates are at issue in this case. The IURC does not have jurisdiction over municipal sewer utility rates, which are set by locally elected city and town councils throughout the state.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/featured-topics/ellettsville-municipal-water-rate-case/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news/.

(IURC Cause No. 45900-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.