



For Immediate Release

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News Media Contact:

Olivia Rivera, (317) 232-3394 or

orivera@oucc.in.gov

AES Indiana Electric Rate Case: OUCC Recommendations

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is recommending denial of AES Indiana's request for a \$134.2 Million (8.4%) base rate increase. Instead, the OUCC's analysis shows that an increase of \$19.1 million (1.2%) is justified based on the case's evidence and applicable law.

Fourteen OUCC witnesses filed testimony with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) this week. The OUCC is the state agency representing the interests of all consumers in cases before the IURC.

"Our recommendations in this case are based on a 3 ½-month review of AES Indiana's request by our attorneys and technical experts," said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor Bill Fine. "The consumer comments we received regarding affordability and reliability factored heavily into our analysis and recommendations, particularly in the context of the extended storm outages this summer."

The OUCC's testimony recommends:

- Keeping AES Indiana's monthly customer service charge for most residential customers at \$16.75. The utility proposed raising the charge to \$25.00 in this case.
- Decreasing the utility's authorized return on equity to 9.1%. AES Indiana's current authorized return of 9.99% was approved in 2018. The utility is proposing a 10.6% return.
- Reducing the utility's proposed depreciation expense and reducing numerous line items from the utility's proposed amounts for operating and maintenance expenses.
- Requiring specific consumer protections to be in place before the utility implements its proposal to carry out disconnections for non-payment remotely. AES Indiana is asking the IURC to waive rules requiring utilities to make in-person visits to a customer's property before shutting service off. The OUCC's proposed protections include requiring the utility to obtain updated contact information for at least 80% of its customers and follow specific guidelines to inform customers of the change prior to implementing.
- Approval of the utility's proposed economic development rider, subject to reporting requirements.

The OUCC included more than 1,500 written consumer comments in this week's filing with the Commission. Those comments, along with the OUCC's testimony are available online. In addition, approximately 40 AES Indiana customers spoke at the two public field hearings the IURC held in this case.

Rebuttal from AES Indiana is due on Nov. 8, 2023, with an evidentiary hearing scheduled to start on Dec. 4, 2023. A final order from the IURC is not expected until Spring 2024.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/ipl-rates/aes-2023-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. 45911)

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.