



For Immediate Release

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Citizens Gas of Westfield Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited

If you are a Citizens Gas of Westfield customer, you are invited to comment on the utility's proposed rate increase.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing the utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Dec. 2, 2022.

While using its legal and technical resources to analyze the request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through Nov. 25, 2022.

Citizens Gas of Westfield is seeking a \$1.29 million increase in its annual operating revenues. The utility's testimony states the increase is necessary to cover higher operating and maintenance costs and pay for infrastructure improvements related to rapid community growth. The utility provides service to more than 6,100 customers in Hamilton County.

The utility's testimony shows residential bills rising as follows under its request:

Monthly Usage	Current Gas Bill	Proposed Gas Bill
20 Therms	\$28.67	\$36.59
50 Therms	\$53.93	\$66.34
100 Therms	\$96.02	\$115.90

Citizens Gas of Westfield's current rates received IURC approval in 2017.

Base distribution rates comprise approximately 58 percent of a typical Citizens Gas of Westfield residential bill. They cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses and capital infrastructure improvements. The remaining 42 percent of a typical monthly bill pays for the natural gas itself, which the utility recovers on a dollar-for-dollar basis subject to OUCC review and IURC approval every three months.

Citizens' pending proposal would only affect natural gas rates and charges in its Westfield service territory. It would not affect Westfield's water or sewer rates, or rates and charges for Citizens customers in Marion County.

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 Nov. 25, 2022**, so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its testimony 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. 45761**" or "**Citizens Gas of Westfield**". Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

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An IURC evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to start on January 26, 2023. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses. A final Commission order is currently expected in June of 2023.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/natural-gas/tips-and-publications/natural-gas-cases-of-note/citizens-gas-of-westfield-rates/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45761)

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.