



For Immediate Release

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News Media Contact:

Olivia Rivera, (317) 232-3394 or

orivera@oucc.in.gov

Jackson County Water Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited

If you want to comment on Jackson County Water Utility's proposed rate increase, you are invited to do so.

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. 8, 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 Dec. 1, 2022.

Jackson County Water Utility, Inc. is a not-for-profit entity providing service in Jackson, Jennings, Bartholomew, Brown, and Lawrence counties. Its current rates received Commission approval in 2019.

The utility's pending request would raise the monthly residential rate for a customer using 5,000 gallons from \$57.17 to \$62.20. In an earlier phase of this case, the utility received IURC approval to issue up to \$4.3 million in long-term debt. In its testimony, the utility states it requested the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs, along with infrastructure improvements including lead line replacements, distribution main upgrades, and other infrastructure upgrades.

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 Dec. 1, 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. 45640**" or **Jackson County Water Utility**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to start on Feb. 7, 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 expected in the spring or summer of 2023.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/jackson-county-water-utility-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. 45640)

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.