



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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## **Twin Lakes Utilities requests new surcharge: Consumer comments invited**

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is accepting written comments on the request of Twin Lakes Utilities, Inc. (TLUI) to impose a customer surcharge.

The 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 Thursday, July 30, 2015.

TLUI – a wholly-owned subsidiary of Northbrook, Ill.-based Utilities, Inc. – provides water and sewer service to approximately 3,100 customers in and near Lakes of the Four Seasons in Lake and Porter Counties. TLUI’s pending request would raise monthly water bills by 22 cents for every 1,000 gallons used, while raising the flat, monthly sewer rate by \$2.83.

TLUI is making its request under a state law that allows expedited initial rate recovery for distribution system and collection system improvements that replace aging infrastructure.

- The law allows an investor-owned water or sewer utility to impose a surcharge to earn a return on investment used to replace aging distribution or collection system infrastructure since its last rate case. Without this law, a utility would be required to wait until its next rate case to begin earning this return.
- A surcharge may not be imposed for plant additions used to connect new customers.
- Under the law, total surcharges cannot exceed 10 percent of the base revenue amount approved in the utility’s most recent general base rate case.
- The surcharge, which investor-owned water and sewer utilities may make between general base rate cases, requires IURC approval to take effect. A Commission order is required within 60 days of the utility’s filing.
- By law, the OUCC must file its report within 30 days of the utility’s request. The OUCC’s review is generally limited to whether the infrastructure additions qualify under the statute and whether the surcharge has been calculated correctly.

In its filings, TLUI identifies transmission and distribution mains, service lines, meters, hydrants, and other items among its recent infrastructure projects. TLUI’s current base rates received IURC approval in April 2014.

More information on this case, including the utility’s testimony, is available online at [www.in.gov/oucc/2639.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2639.htm).

(Continued)

Consumers who wish to submit written comments in this case 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  
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Indianapolis, IN 46204
- **email:** [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
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Written comments the OUCC receives by Monday, July 27, 2015 will be filed with the Commission and included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44646.**"

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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(IURC Cause No. 44646)

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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