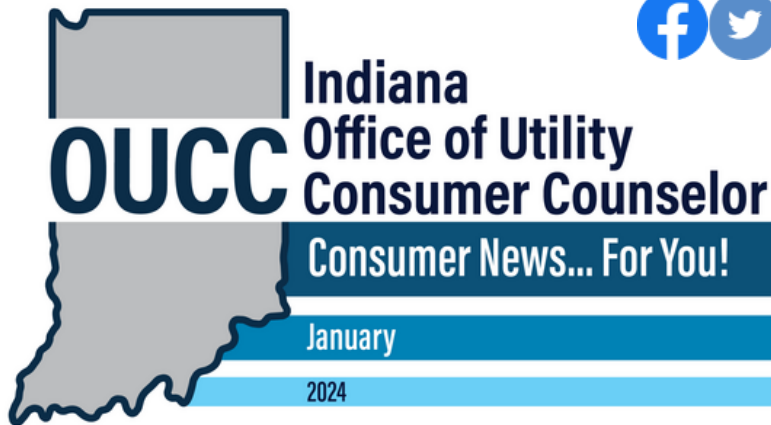


Share Bulletin



## CenterPoint Electric Rates

The OUCC's analysts and attorneys have begun reviewing [CenterPoint Energy's electric rate request](#). The utility's proposed \$118.8 million increase would raise annual revenues over three phases to be fully implemented in 2026.

The utility's proposal would increase a monthly residential bill for 799 kilowatt hours (kWh) from \$154.02 to \$201.26. An electric bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh would rise from \$207.20 to \$253.40, according to CenterPoint Energy's testimony and exhibits.

[Written public comments](#) for the case record are invited through March 5. Consumers may submit comments via the OUCC's [online submission form](#), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.in.gov](mailto: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 IURC will schedule a public field hearing in Evansville at a date to be determined. This will be an opportunity for the public to speak for the case record. Comments offered at the field hearing will carry the same weight as written consumer comments the OUCC receives by March 5. Specific details on the hearing will be posted on the OUCC's [website](#) and social media pages as soon as they are available.

Testimony from the OUCC will be due March 12. A Commission order is expected later this year. Natural gas rates are not at issue in this case.

## NIPSCO Gas Rates

The OUCC is inviting [written consumer comments](#) in the [NIPSCO natural gas](#) rate case

In addition, the IURC has scheduled 2 public field hearings:

- January 8: Purdue University Fort Wayne (2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne), Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom.
- January 23: Purdue University Northwest (2233 173rd Street, Hammond), Student Union and Library Building (Alumni Hall).

Each hearing starts at 6 PM, local time.

Spoken comments at the field hearings will carry the same weight as written comments the OUCC receives by January 24. All comments received before the deadline will be filed as evidence with the Commission.

Electric rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

The OUCC's attorneys and technical experts are analyzing NIPSCO's request and are scheduled to file testimony with the Commission on January 31. An order is expected this summer.

# I&M Settlement

A pending [settlement agreement](#) in the [Indiana Michigan Power](#) rate case would limit I&M's requested \$116.4 million increase to \$56.9 million (inclusion of rider revenues adjusts the increase to \$61.8 million).

If the agreement is approved, the monthly residential charge will be set at \$15.00, changing from \$14.79 (the level it was before the state's Utility Receipts Tax was repealed). The settlement would also ensure reductions in nuclear decommissioning expenses, place an annual cap on certain interstate transmission costs, and would authorize I&M's return on equity at 9.85% instead of the utility's requested 10.5%.

The IURC has authority to approve, deny, or modify any agreement it considers. The settling parties must present evidence showing it to be in the public interest before it receives IURC approval. The OUCC is scheduled to file supporting testimony on January 9 with a final order expected in the coming months.

## Additional Cases

- The OUCC is inviting [written consumer comments](#) in the [Boonville Natural Gas Corp.](#) rate case through February 26.
- The IURC has [approved](#) CenterPoint Energy's 5-year, \$454 million [electric infrastructure plan](#).
- [Edwardsville Water Corporation](#) has filed a new rate case seeking a 17.7% increase. A procedural schedule will be set in the near future.
- The Indiana Court of Appeals case on [Community Utilities of Indiana's](#) (CUII's) rates is fully briefed. The OUCC is recommending that the Commission's February 2023 order be upheld.

## Heating Assistance

As the winter heating season continues, qualifying households can still receive financial assistance through the federally funded Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program ([LIHEAP](#)). If you know consumers who qualify, they can apply [online](#) through the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority's (IHCDA's) website. Applications are also accepted at local intake offices. There is an office in each Indiana county.

Township trustees and additional local-level sources can help with utility bills. [Indiana 2-1-1](#) can connect consumers with more information.

Happy  
Retirement  
*Wes & Randy!*



Two of the OUCC's veteran employees retired as 2023 came to an end. All of us offer Wes Blakley and Randy Helmen a heartfelt congratulations and many thanks for their decades of service to Hoosier ratepayers.

### **Wes Blakley**

One of the OUCC's longest serving staff members, Mr. Blakley spent 32 years with the agency. He has written expert testimony on accounting and fiscal issues in numerous cases over the years. In addition, he has been a mentor to many and a friend to all in his role as a Senior Utility Analyst.

### **Randall Helmen**

Mr. Helmen's 41-year legal career includes 23 years with the OUCC as Chief Deputy Consumer Counselor. His passion for his job, the law, and ratepayers has been an inspiration to everyone on our team through the years.

If you would like to wish Wes and Randy well, you can do so on our [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#) pages.

# Our Mission

To represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, & creative problem solving.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [YouTube](#).

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