

Share Bulletin



## Winter Moratorium

Indiana's [winter disconnection moratorium](#) for electric and natural gas utilities ends on Mar. 15. Customers who are behind on their bills should contact their utilities ASAP to make payment arrangements. If you need - or know someone who needs - financial assistance with bills, Indiana's [2-1-1 help line](#) is available 24/7 and can connect you with local resources.

## Fix A Leak Week

Did you know that the average household wastes 10,000 gallons of water each year, resulting in increased water and sewer bills? Just a dripping faucet or leaky toilet can waste more water - and more money - than you might realize.

[Fix a Leak Week](#) is Mar. 20 through 26. It's an annual reminder to check your home or business for any water leaks and get them repaired. Many repairs are inexpensive. The OUCC will be posting tips on social media throughout the week. Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) today!

## East Chicago Water

An IURC [public field hearing](#) in the East Chicago Water rate case is set for Monday, Mar. 6. It will start at 6:00 p.m. local time at East Chicago City Hall. Comments presented at the field hearing will carry the same weight as [written consumer comments](#) the OUCC receives by Mar. 22. OUCC testimony is due Mar. 29.

The utility is requesting a three-year, three-phase increase. It would raise a monthly 5,000 gallon residential water bill from \$18.66 to \$40.39 when fully implemented in 2025.

## CenterPoint Wind Case

The OUCC recently filed testimony recommending that the IURC deny [CenterPoint Energy's](#) request to recover costs for a proposed out-of-state wind generation facility. According to the utility's testimony, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$636 million and would eventually add \$19.86 to a monthly residential bill for 1,000 kWh, not including offsets from the potential sale of renewable energy credits. Cost recovery would not take effect immediately but is expected to be included in CenterPoint Energy's next electric rate case, which it is required to file by the end of this year.

## Additional Cases

## Energy

- Pending fuel cost adjustments from [CenterPoint Energy](#), [Duke Energy](#), and [NIPSCO](#) would reduce monthly rates due to recent reductions in wholesale coal and natural gas costs. An FAC order for [AES Indiana](#) received approval in late February.
- The IURC's evidentiary hearing in the [NIPSCO](#) electric rate case is currently scheduled to start on Mar. 13.
- Consumer comments in [AES Indiana's](#) electric vehicle case are invited through Apr. 20.
- The OUCC has filed its recommendations in the [Fountaintown Gas](#) rate case.
- The OUCC and [Citizens Gas of Westfield](#) have reached a [settlement agreement](#) on the utility's rates. If approved, the agreement would limit the increase to approximately \$752,000, instead of the more than \$1.29 million the utility requested.

## Water/Wastewater

- [Indiana American Water Company](#) is seeking to raise its Distribution System Improvement Charge ([DSIC](#)) by \$4.88 on a monthly residential bill. The increase would be limited to \$3.10 under the OUCC's [recommendations](#).
- Community Utilities of Indiana (CUII) has filed a [motion for reconsideration](#) of its recent rate order. The IURC's February order approved a \$28.19 increase in the combined monthly water and sewer bill for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons. CUII's initial request would have increased the bill by \$74.65.
- The OUCC recommends approval of about half of the [Eastern Richland Sewer](#) Corporation's rate request.
- Written consumer comments are invited in the [Marion](#) municipal water rate case through May 2. An IURC public field hearing in Marion will be scheduled in the near future.

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  
#EmployeeAppreciationDay

Our dedicated team works diligently every day to fulfill the OUCC's mission: 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.

More than 1,000 Years of Experience

Consumer Savings in Budget Year 2021-22: Nearly \$520 Million

Friday, Mar. 3, is Employee Appreciation Day! We are thankful for our dedicated team that puts more than 1,000 years of combined professional experience to work for Indiana utility consumers each day. Our latest [Annual Report](#) offers more info on our staff's accomplishments and activities throughout the state's last fiscal year.

## 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.

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