Consumer News... For You! August 2023

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor Consumer News... For You!

Indiana American Water

2023

The OUCC is recommending a \$68.1 million reduction to Indiana American Water Company's (INAWC's) <u>proposed rate increase</u>. INAWC's request would raise annual revenues by approximately 31.1% (\$86.7 million) when fully implemented in April 2025. The OUCC's recommendations would limit the increase to about 6.6% (\$18.6 million).

Eleven OUCC witnesses filed testimony on July 21, following a 3 ½-month review of INAWC's proposal. An IURC evidentiary hearing starts later this month with a Commission order expected in the winter. INAWC is the state's largest investor-owned water utility.

AES Indiana

The OUCC and Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana are <u>requesting</u> an IURC investigation to assess AES Indiana's preparations and managerial procedures for storm outage restoration. A June 29 storm caused numerous outages with some customers losing power for more than 5 days. The investigation request is pending.

The OUCC is also reviewing AES Indiana's <u>pending rate request</u>, which would raise annual revenues by approximately \$134 million and increase the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kWh by \$17.49.

<u>Written consumer comments</u> are invited through Oct. 5. IURC public field hearings are also expected at dates and times to be determined. The OUCC website will be <u>updated</u> with hearing information.

Additional Cases

Energy

- OUCC testimony on CenterPoint Energy's \$454 million electric transmission and distribution <u>infrastructure plan</u> is due Aug. 16. Consumer comments are invited through Aug. 9.
- CenterPoint Energy's <u>quarterly Fuel Cost Adjustment</u> will raise the monthly 1,000 kWh residential electric bill by \$6.53. The utility's proposal would have raised the bill at that usage by \$11.26; the OUCC recommended limiting the increase to \$1.80.
- A settlement hearing in the Citizens Thermal Energy rate case is set for Aug. 23.
- The OUCC is scheduled to file testimony in the <u>Midwest Natural Gas</u> rate case on Aug. 23 and in the <u>Indiana Natural Gas Corp.</u> rate case on Aug. 30.

Water/Wastewater

- <u>Written comments</u> are invited in the <u>Ellettsville Water</u> rate case through Sept. 20. A public hearing will be held in Ellettsville on Aug. 10 at 6 pm.
- All filings and hearings in the East Chicago water rate case are complete.
- The IURC has <u>approved</u> the sale of <u>LMH Utilities</u> in Dearborn County.

811 Before You Dig

August 11, or 8/11, is recognized throughout the nation as 811 Day. It's an annual reminder to either call 811 or fill out the form at <u>Indiana 811.org</u> before doing any digging on your property. State law requires anyone who plans to dig to make the call or complete the form at least two complete business days before digging. It costs nothing to have your property marked for underground utility lines. But it can be very costly, even fatal, to hit an underground line. Remember, too, that gas, electric, and water lines may not be buried as deeply as you might expect.



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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