



## VAMPIRE POWER

*Is your home leaking energy?*

Some of the trick-or-treaters at your door on Halloween may be dressed as vampires. But there's another vampire you need to watch out for: The energy vampire. Any phone charger or small appliance that's plugged in when you're not using it is still using some electricity. Those small amounts can add up. Since October is Energy Awareness Month and winter is not far away, you can benefit by checking now for wasted power. An [advanced power strip](#) can go a long way in helping curb phantom load, and it can pay for itself quickly.

## OUCC Annual Report

The OUCC's staff worked hard throughout the State of Indiana's last fiscal year, participating in nearly 380 docketed IURC cases, along with additional cases before state appellate courts & at the federal level. The agency's work helped produce nearly \$520 million in savings for Hoosier consumers. For more facts and to learn more about the OUCC's accomplishments this budget year, take a look at our newly released [annual report](#).

## NIPSCO Rate Case

[Northern Indiana Public Service Co.](#) (NIPSCO) is requesting an annual electric rate increase of nearly \$292 million in a newly filed case. According to testimony, the proposal would cover costs for infrastructure upgrades & ongoing changes to its generation mix. It would raise the average monthly residential electric bill (668 kWh) by \$19.43 when fully implemented in March 2024, & by an additional \$6.22 under a new rate tracker the utility proposes to implement in July 2024.

The OUCC is using its legal & technical resources to review the case, with its testimony likely due in January. A [rate case](#) takes approximately 300 days from start to finish. A Commission order is not expected until summer 2023.

[Written consumer comments](#) are invited. Case updates will be posted on the [OUCC website](#).

Natural gas rates are not at issue in this case.

## Citizens Energy

Citizens Energy Group is requesting a [Distribution System Improvement Charge](#) (DSIC) for its Indianapolis water utility, which would raise monthly rates by \$2.78. The OUCC is scheduled to file testimony on Oct. 11.

In a separate docket, OUCC analysts & attorneys are reviewing a proposed [rate increase](#) for Citizens Gas of Westfield, with testimony due Dec. 2.

# Case Updates

## Energy

- The OUCC's [motion for extension of time](#) in its request to the Commission for monthly utility reporting data on disconnections and arrearages was approved by the Commission. The OUCC is now scheduled to file on Oct. 17, 2022.
- All parties in CenterPoint Energy's [securitization](#) case, including the OUCC, are scheduled to file proposed orders on Oct. 7.
- The OUCC filed September testimony recommending the IURC deny NIPSCO's request to recover \$41.5 million from consumers for [coal ash compliance](#) at its Michigan City generating station.
- OUCC testimony on Duke Energy's \$272 million [coal ash compliance](#) plan is due on Oct. 13.
- [Written public comments](#) are invited through Oct. 14 on AES Indiana's quarterly [fuel cost adjustment](#). The utility's request would raise an average residential bill by \$8.06 due to higher coal & natural gas costs.

## Water

- The OUCC recently filed its [proposed order](#) in the [American Suburban Utilities](#) (ASU) rate case, recommending a 15.8% decrease in residential rates. Oct. 14 is the deadline for the OUCC & ASU to file final briefs.
- An Oct. 26 evidentiary hearing is scheduled on the [South Bend](#) water utility's rate & financing request.
- [Written public comments](#) are invited through Dec. 1, 2022 for the recently filed [Jackson County Water Utility](#) rate case.
- [Eastern Richland Sewer Corporation](#) has filed a new case requesting a 9.97% rate increase. OUCC testimony is expected in late December.

# Billing Assistance

If you are concerned with paying bills on time & in full, now is the time to contact your utilities about payment arrangements. Indiana has a winter [disconnection moratorium](#) but it only applies if you have applied for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority (IHCDA) offers a county-by-county [directory](#) of local intake offices where consumers can apply for benefits.

The application process is [open now](#). Consumers who qualify for LIHEAP can also receive water bill assistance through the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Indiana's [2-1-1 help line](#) can direct consumers to other local resources for financial assistance. Township trustees and certain utilities also offer assistance to consumers in need.

# 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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