

Share Bulletin



## NIPSCO Cases

The OUCC is inviting [written comments](#) on two pending requests from Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO).

### Electric Generation Facility

NIPSCO's [electric utility](#) is requesting IURC approval to build and operate a 400-megawatt natural gas-fired power plant, and approval to recover the costs through rates. The utility's testimony estimates the construction and financing would cost about \$643.7 million.

The facility would be built at the R.M. Schahfer Generating Station site near Wheatfield. It would replace a portion of capacity from the coal-fired Schahfer facility, which is set for retirement in 2025. NIPSCO is seeking Commission approval to recover costs as they are incurred, adjusting electric rates as frequently as every six months.

An IURC public field hearing is scheduled for Dec. 18 in La Porte. The OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through Dec. 19. OUCC testimony is due Dec. 21.

### Natural Gas Rate Case

In a separate case, NIPSCO is requesting a \$161.9 million base rate increase for its [natural gas utility](#). The request would raise the monthly residential customer service charge from \$16.25 to \$25.50, along with changes to the bill's volumetric portion.

The OUCC is inviting written public comments on the gas rate request through Jan. 24, 2024. Comments received by that date will be filed for the case's formal record.

OUCC testimony is due Jan. 31, 2024 with a final Commission order expected in the summer.

## CenterPoint Electric Rates

CenterPoint Energy filed a [new rate case](#) for its electric utility in southwestern Indiana on Dec. 5. The request would raise annual electric utility revenues by \$118.8 million.

As the OUCC starts its review, we are inviting [written comments](#) from CenterPoint Energy electric customers for the case record. Natural gas rates for CenterPoint Energy's utilities are not at issue in this case.

Testimony from the OUCC will be due in mid-March. A Commission order is expected late last year.

## AES Indiana Rates

A pending settlement agreement in the AES Indiana electric [rate case](#) would reduce the utility's request by approximately \$63.2 million. All of the case's formal parties have signed on to the

agreement, including the OUCC, Citizens Action Coalition, City of Indianapolis, industrial customers, and additional parties.

The agreement would allow for a \$9.36 increase in a monthly residential bill (1,000 kilowatt hours), compared to a \$17.49 increase the utility originally requested. The fixed monthly customer charge for most residential customers would change from \$16.75 to \$17.50. AES Indiana initially sought to raise the charge to \$25.00.

A final Commission order is expected in early 2024. Any settlement before the IURC may be approved, denied, or modified. Settling parties must demonstrate that an agreement is in the public interest.

## I&M Rate Case

The OUCC's recommendations in the [Indiana Michigan Power](#) rate case would keep the total revenue increase below 3%. The utility proposed a 6.8% annual revenue increase in its initial filing in August.

11 OUCC witnesses have filed testimony recommending significant reductions to I&M's requested return on equity, depreciation costs, and other factors, which would reduce the overall increase by more than half.

I&M's rebuttal testimony is due Dec. 13 with an IURC evidentiary hearing scheduled in mid-January. A Commission order is expected in the spring.

## Additional Cases

- The OUCC is supporting a request for greater oversight of transmission projects in the PJM Interconnection. The agency has filed a [motion](#) before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding a recent [complaint](#) from the Ohio Consumers' Counsel. PJM Interconnection oversees electric transmission in parts of Indiana and 12 additional states, including the Indiana Michigan Power service territory.
- CenterPoint Energy's [Reliability Cost and Revenue Adjustment](#) will raise a monthly 1,000 kWh residential electric bill by \$16.55 over the next year.
- New [steam utility rates](#) for businesses in downtown Indianapolis have received approval, under a settlement agreement among the OUCC, industrial customers, and Citizens Thermal Energy.
- The Commission has recently approved gas cost adjustments for [CenterPoint Energy North](#), [Citizens Gas](#), [Citizens Gas of Westfield](#), and [NIPSCO](#). These adjustments allow gas utilities to recover wholesale costs on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and reflect market costs that have dropped significantly from a year ago.
- Boonville Natural Gas Corporation has filed a new [rate case](#). The OUCC is reviewing the utility's request and will file its report in 2024, most likely in February or later. [Written consumer comments](#) are invited for the case record.
- [Public comments](#) are invited regarding the [Marysville-Otisco-Nabb](#) water rate case through Jan. 5. The OUCC anticipates filing on Jan. 12.



Over the past fiscal year, the OUCC's staff has been hard at work, participating in over 350 docketed IURC cases, along with additional cases before state appellate courts & at the federal level. To learn more about the OUCC's accomplishments this year, take a look at our newly released [annual report](#).

## 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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