



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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American Suburban Utilities rate case: Consumer comments invited November 16 public hearing scheduled in West Lafayette

American Suburban Utilities, Inc. (ASU) customers are invited to comment on the utility's requested rate increase. Consumers can comment in either or both of two ways:

1. By sending written comments to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) by December 31, 2015.
2. By speaking at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing on Monday, November 16, 2015.

The IURC's November 16 public field hearing will be held in the William Henry Harrison High School Auditorium (5701 N 50 W in West Lafayette) at 6:00 p.m. An OUCC informational meeting on field hearing procedures and the regulatory process will start at 5:30 p.m.

During the public field hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Comments will carry equal weight whether they are oral or written.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

ASU is a privately owned utility providing sewage disposal service to about 2,500 customers in Tippecanoe County.

In its pending request before the IURC, ASU is seeking approval of a three-phase increase that would ultimately raise its flat, monthly residential sewer rate from \$47.50 to \$93.36. ASU states in testimony and exhibits that it is seeking the increases to pay for major capital improvements including:

- Substantial expansion of its Carriage Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant (from its current 1.5 million gallons per day capacity to 4 million, with additional tankage for 6 million),
- The "Klondike Road Project" (proposed relocation of a large sewer required by road widening), and
- The recently completed "Big 3 Sewer Project" (which included elimination of 3 aging lift stations and an aging sewer line, along with rerouting certain sewage flows for treatment).

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Under the utility's request, the monthly residential sewer rate would rise:

- From \$47.50 to \$59.32 when an IURC order is issued,
- To \$73.16 after the Klondike Road Project and first phase of the Carriage Estates Plant Project are complete (expected no earlier than January 2017), and
- To \$93.36 when the second phase of the Carriage Estates Plant Project is complete (expected no earlier than July 2018).

ASU's current sewer rates took effect in 2000. For more information on the case, including links to the utility's testimony, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2736.htm.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is reviewing the utility's request and has not yet taken a position in this case. The OUCC expects to complete its review and file testimony with the Commission on January 8, 2016.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail, email or fax:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- email: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than December 31, 2015 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44676.**"

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

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(IURC Cause No. 44676)

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is 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.

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