



For Immediate Release

January 20, 2017

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I&M Rockport environmental compliance case: Consumer comments invited, Public hearings scheduled in Rockport & Fort Wayne

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) encourages Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) customers to comment on the utility's environmental compliance proposal for its Rockport Generating Station, including recovery of the costs through rates. Consumers may:

1. Speak at either of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) upcoming public field hearings, and/or
2. Send written comments to the OUCC by the close of business on Wednesday, February 22, 2017.

The IURC's public field hearings will be held on:

- Thursday, February 2, 2017 at the South Spencer High School Auditorium (1142 North County Road 275 West, Rockport, Ind.), and
- Tuesday, February 21, 2017 in the Homestead High School Community Room (4310 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, Ind.).

Each field hearing will start at 6:00 p.m., local time.

- 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 during the field hearing. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

I&M provides electric service to approximately 460,000 customers in 24 northern, northeastern, and east-central Indiana counties. In Cause No. 44871, I&M is seeking IURC approval of a new construction project at its Rockport Generating Station in Spencer County, along with the recovery of construction and financing costs through rates as allowed under Indiana law.

In its testimony, I&M states that it must install new selective catalytic reduction (SCR) emission controls on Unit 2 of its Rockport facility under a federal consent decree, in order to continue operating the unit beyond 2019. The SCR technology would reduce the coal-fired facility's nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in order to comply with the consent decree's terms and US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, according to I&M's filings. Similar technology was installed on Rockport Unit 1 following IURC approval in May 2015.

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With a capacity of 1,300 megawatts, Unit 2 at the Rockport facility was placed in service in 1989. I&M and American Electric Power Generating Company are operating the unit under a lease that will terminate in 2022 unless it is extended. The Rockport Generating Station provides nearly half of I&M's power production; its 2 units, together, have a capacity of 2,620 megawatts.

Proposed construction costs for the Unit 2 project total approximately \$274.2 million, not including financing. The utility's exhibits show the proposal adding a 1.6 percent increase in overall rates.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC, is scheduled to file testimony on Thursday, February 2, 2017. In the meantime, the OUCC's technical staff and attorneys continue to review the proposal to determine whether it represents the most cost-effective means for the utility to comply with federal environmental rules while meeting the power reliability needs of all of its customers.

A number of additional parties have formally intervened in this case and are also scheduled to file testimony on February 2, 2017. They include a number of I&M's industrial customers (Air Products and Chemicals, Inc., ArcelorMittal USA LLC, General Motors, LLC, Linde, LLC, Marathon Petroleum Company LP, and Praxair, Inc.), the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, the Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, and Valley Watch, Inc.

Consumers who are unable to attend the field hearing but 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 February 22, 2017 so that it will have sufficient time to 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. 44871." Consumers with questions about submitting written comments may call the OUCC toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Case updates will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2869.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 44871)

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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