



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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For Immediate Release  
June 28, 2012

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## Ohio Valley Gas rates: Public hearing July 11 in Winchester, Written comments invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is encouraging Ohio Valley Gas customers to comment on the utility’s pending rate case, through both written comments and the case’s upcoming public field hearing in Winchester.

The OUCC – which represents consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is accepting written consumer comments for the case record through July 11, 2012.

In addition, an Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) **public field hearing** will be held on **Wednesday, July 11, 2012** in the Winchester Community High School Auditorium (700 N. Union St. in Winchester). The hearing’s public comment portion will begin at 6:00 p.m.

- Sworn oral and written comments regarding the rate case will be accepted during the field hearing.
- Oral and written consumer comments carry equal weight and will become part of the official evidentiary record considered by the IURC in reaching its final decision.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer consumer questions during the formal field hearing. (However, OUCC and IURC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing.)

An OUCC informational session on the regulatory process and public field hearing procedures will start at 5:30 p.m.

Ohio Valley Gas Corporation and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc. provide natural gas utility service in 16 east-central, southern and western Indiana counties. According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the increase due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with a number of infrastructure improvements, including pipeline extensions, improvements and replacements, and new, automated meters for all customers.

The request would increase the combined annual revenues of OVGC and OVGI by nearly \$4.54 million. The flat, monthly customer charge for all residential customers would increase from \$14.50 to \$15.00, with the impact on the base rate’s volumetric portion varying by region. According to its testimony and exhibits, the utility’s request would increase monthly residential bills as follows:

	<b>OVGC – ANR pipeline service area</b> Dubois, Jay, Randolph, Spencer & Wayne Counties		<b>OVGC – Texas Gas pipeline service area</b> Dearborn, Fayette, Franklin, Perry, Ripley, Spencer, & Union Counties		<b>OVGI service area</b> Greene, Knox, Pike, Sullivan, & Vigo Counties	
<b>Usage</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>20 therms/month</b>	\$36.06	\$39.62	\$38.24	\$41.13	\$36.60	\$40.42
<b>50 therms/month</b>	\$68.40	\$76.54	\$73.86	\$80.32	\$69.74	\$78.54
<b>100 therms/month</b>	\$122.30	\$138.09	\$133.21	\$145.65	\$124.98	\$142.09

(Continued)

The proposed increase in this case would apply to the utility's base distribution rate, which comprises nearly half of a typical residential natural gas customer's monthly heating bill. Base distribution rates cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses, and capital and infrastructure improvements. Current base rates for Ohio Valley Gas were approved in October 2007.

Wholesale natural gas supply costs, which currently make up approximately 54 percent of a typical Ohio Valley Gas customer's bill, are recovered on a dollar-for-dollar basis through the state's Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) process. The utility's GCA process, which includes an OUCC review and requires IURC approval, continues every three months.

The OUCC is reviewing the utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 12, 2012.

Consumers who cannot attend the field hearing may provide written comments to the OUCC online at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://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](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
- **Fax:** (317) 232-5923

Written comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44147.**"

For more information, please visit the OUCC's Website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2693.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2693.htm).

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(IURC Cause No. 44147)

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.

To learn more, visit [www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC) or follow us at [www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC](http://www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC).