

December 18, 2025

Indiana Department of Environmental Management
ATTN: Commissioner Clint Woods
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2251

Re: Proposed Agency Nonrule Policy Document: Assessment of Late Fees and Other Consequences for Nonpayment of Fees (Policy Number: MP-0010)

The Indiana Energy Association (IEA)¹ submits these comments to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM or the Department) on its Agency Nonrule Policy Document concerning the assessment of late fees and other consequences for nonpayment of fees. IEA appreciates that IDEM is working to ensure appropriate collection of fees as this is an important source of revenue for agency operations.

Because IEA members are subject to a variety of fee payments to IDEM, including but not limited to application fees, an annual operations fee, and disposal fees, IEA has a direct interest in the assessment of late fees and other consequences for nonpayment of fees and is filing these comments on behalf of those members.

IEA supports IDEM establishing a policy document to address and improve the timely collection of fees across all program areas, and the consequences of egregious or repeat late and/or unpaid fees. Outstanding receivables are also a challenge for IEA members who have budgets to manage and processes that must be followed for outstanding receivables. Adherence to and execution of processes for proper receipt of invoices by the customer is an important part of paying for receivables in a timely manner.

IEA members have experienced invoices from IDEM being sent to people who are no longer employed by the company, in roles that require identification with IDEM (but who are not responsible for invoice payment), and to plant addresses instead of central office locations rendering mail 'lost' in the system. Some of the plant addresses to which fee invoices are mailed are unstaffed, which can lead to delays in the invoice being processed for payment, assuming such invoices are received.

Additionally, the cycle upon which fees will be issued by the various programs leads to uncertainty as to when fee invoices will be received by the regulated

Danielle McGrath, President

Matthew Long, Vice President

- ▶ AES Indiana
- ▶ Boonville Natural Gas Corp.
- ▶ CenterPoint Energy
- ▶ Citizens Energy Group
- ▶ Community Natural Gas Co., Inc.
- ▶ Duke Energy Indiana
- ▶ Fountaintown Gas Co., Inc.
- ▶ Indiana Michigan Power
- ▶ Indiana Natural Gas Corp.
- ▶ Midwest Natural Gas Corp.
- ▶ Northern Indiana Public Service Co.
- ▶ Ohio Valley Gas Corp.
- ▶ South Eastern Indiana Natural Gas Co., Inc.
- ▶ Sycamore Gas Co.

¹ These members include AES Indiana, Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Indiana South, Duke Energy Indiana, Indiana Michigan Power, Citizens Energy Group, and Northern Indiana Public Service Company LLC (NIPSCO).



community, and if there are questions on an invoice, how to resolve those questions. IDEM could, for example, publish an annual update for the regulated community that highlights when the mailing of various fee invoices for program areas will begin as notice for when to start looking for invoices.

IEA would welcome the opportunity to work with IDEM's financial team or other appropriate representatives to discuss challenges and possible resolutions, such as updating mailing addresses and the "Bill To" information on the invoice or ensuring each IDEM program area has the most current information on file for the submittal of invoices to each IEA member. Standardizing how information is solicited from the regulated community related to administrative matters (such as fee payment) would also add value to this process. IDEM's drinking water program already does this by sending an annual request for updated inventory information in the late summer each year to ensure that administrative information in the agency records is current.

We can also share strategies that have been put into place by IEA members to address the varying ways in which invoices for their company are directed. For example, one member company has worked with their Accounts Payable department to establish instruction that all IDEM invoices should route to a designated environmental department representative as a starting point. Another IEA member has an annual task assigned to staff associated with fee payments that often requires them to work with IDEM's accounting team to track down invoices that were not received. However, in the case of an invoice being sent to a plant address, these processes designed to ensure timely payment do not, unfortunately, work.

Additionally, IEA would encourage IDEM to consider the inclusion of additional program areas in its online portal to streamline the payment of fees. Currently, NPDES permit application fees are paid through a portal and a receipt showing payment is a required part of the application process. Having a similar portal available for air permit application fees, as well as others, would streamline payment and avoid complications and delays if invoices are misrouted.

Again, IEA appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Agency Nonrule Policy Document regarding the assessment of late fees and other consequences for nonpayment of fees. Our association is also glad to assist IDEM, as needed, to facilitate a process for ensuring proper issuance and receipt of invoices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Danielle M. McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Danielle McGrath
President