

# **Memorandum**

**To:** James Huston, Chairman

**From:** Jane Steinhauer, Energy Division Director

**Date:** December 21, 2020

**Re:** Summary Results of Periodic Review for Calendar Year 2019

Indiana Code § 8-1-2-42.5 requires the Commission to conduct a review of the basic rates and charges of all public, municipally owned, and cooperatively owned utilities. Utilities serving less than 8,000 customers are exempt from such a review as described in Indiana Code § 8-1-2-61.5.

Additionally, Indiana Code § 8-1-2-16 requires that a utility's accounting books and records be closed on the last day of December with the balance sheet and other information prescribed by the Commission filed on or before April 30 of the following calendar year. The Commission's administrative rules (170 IAC) prescribe the accounting and reporting requirements adopted by the Commission for each industry.

The Commission's Energy Division conducted the periodic review as described in the Commission's GAO 2018-01 ("GAO"). Part of this process is a Level 1 review, and if necessary, further review is conducted in Level 2. The Energy Division Staff analyzes the actual rate of return reported by the utilities to what the utilities are authorized to earn through Commission Orders for the investor-owned utilities. For the municipal utilities, the actual operating revenue is compared to the authorized operating revenues. The primary threshold for a Level 1 review, depending on the utility type, is if the actual return (i.e., investor-owned utilities) or actual operating revenue (i.e., municipally-owned, not-for-profit, and cooperatively-owned) exceeds authorized return or authorized revenue by 10% or more.

Data contained in the annual reports provided to the Commission was utilized by the Energy Division Staff to conduct a periodic review of the following gas utilities:

1. Citizens Gas
2. Indiana Gas Company, Inc.
3. Midwest Natural Gas Corporation
4. Northern Indiana Public Service Company
5. Ohio Valley Gas Corporation & Ohio Valley Gas Inc.
6. Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company

All of the above natural gas utilities were within the designated Level 1 threshold standard as described in the GAO. Therefore, no natural gas utility was subject to a Level 2 review.

Data contained in the annual reports provided to the Commission was utilized by the Energy Division Staff to conduct a periodic review of the following electric utilities:

1. Anderson Municipal
2. Crawfordsville Municipal
3. Duke Energy Indiana
4. Frankfort Municipal
5. Indiana Michigan Power Company
6. Indianapolis Power & Light
7. Lebanon Municipal
8. Northern Indiana Public Service Company
9. Richmond Municipal
10. Southern Indiana Gas & Electric Company

The following electric utilities exceeded the Level 1 threshold standard as prescribed in the GAO and was subject to a Level 2 review:

1. Lebanon Municipal
2. Richmond Municipal

The Commission's Energy Division Staff conducted a Level 2 review, which includes the collection of data and information beyond that contained in the utility's most recent annual report. For ratemaking purposes municipal utilities do not earn a return on its investment like investor-owned utilities. Rather, municipal utilities revenues are established to be sufficient enough to pay operating expenses, debt service or extensions and replacements, interest expenses, and working capital. Therefore, the authorized revenues must be sufficient to cover total expenses necessary to provide service. Staff concluded that the two electric utilities listed above passed the Level 2 threshold standard as described in the GAO. Therefore, no further action is required as outlined in the brief explanations below:

1. Lebanon Municipal – The Level 1 threshold was exceeded by 11.83% based on Staff's comparison of authorized revenue requirement (\$20,189,356) approved in Cause No. 44142 (dated 09/12/12) to the actual revenues reported in calendar year 2019 (\$22,578,279). However, over the same time period, the comparison of Lebanon's authorized revenue requirement (\$20,189,356) to its actual total expenses or revenue requirement for calendar year 2019 (\$25,539,245) resulted in an undercollection of \$5,349,889 or a negative 26.50%. Therefore, no further action is necessary.
2. Richmond Municipal - The Level 1 threshold was exceeded by 22.66% based on Staff's comparison of authorized revenue requirement (\$66,018,290) approved in Cause No. 42713 (dated 02/09/05) to the actual revenues reported in calendar year 2019 (\$80,978,473). However, over the same time period, the comparison of Richmond's authorized revenue

requirement (\$66,018,290) to its actual total expenses or revenue requirement in calendar year 2019 (\$84,273,485) resulted in an undercollection of \$18,255,195 or a negative 27.65%. Therefore, no further action is necessary.

The Energy Division will continue to monitor the financial health of all jurisdictional energy utilities in the future.