



**For Immediate Release**

**Feb. 28, 2022**

News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

[aswinger@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:aswinger@oucc.IN.gov)

## **American Suburban Utilities Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments IURC Public Hearing Set for March 30 in Tippecanoe County**

If you would like to comment on the pending rate request by American Suburban Utilities (ASU), you have the chance to do so. ASU provides sewage disposal service in a portion of Tippecanoe County.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing ASU's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Apr. 5, 2022.

### **Written consumer comments**

While using its legal and technical resources to review ASU's request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through Apr. 1, 2022.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov), or by mail at:

Public Comments  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)  
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than Apr. 1, 2022, 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45649-U**" or **American Suburban Utilities**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

### **Public field hearing**

The IURC is currently scheduled to hold a public field hearing on the utility's request on Wednesday, Mar. 30, 2022, in the Battle Ground Middle School Gymnasium (6100 N. 50 West, West Lafayette). The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m.

Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations.

**(Continued)**

The field hearing's sole purpose is to receive public testimony.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments during the hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Apr. 1, 2022.
- An IURC field hearing does not include a question-and-answer session or a presentation from the utility. The focus, again, is on public input. ASU filed its request in this case in November 2021. The Commission will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility and the OUCC.
- No final decisions will be made at the field hearing.

The OUCC's informational video offers an overview at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRSpByE-m10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRSpByE-m10).

Sworn comments presented at the field hearing will carry the same weight as written consumer comments filed by the OUCC.

### **Case overview**

American Suburban Utilities is seeking IURC approval to raise its flat, monthly residential sewer rate from \$59.08 to \$99.66.

The IURC set ASU's current monthly billing amount in September 2021, implementing the third phase of an increase approved in 2016.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. If an agreement is reached, the settling parties are required to present evidence showing it to be in the public interest. The IURC may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers.

A final Commission order is expected later this year.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/american-suburban-utilities](https://www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/american-suburban-utilities). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/news](https://www.in.gov/oucc/news).

(IURC Cause No. 45649-U)

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.