



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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Anderson municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited, September 22 public hearing scheduled

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting consumer comments on the City of Anderson's request for a water rate increase.

Consumers may comment by:

1. Speaking at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing on Monday, September 22, 2014, or
2. Sending written comments to the OUCC in advance of the public field hearing.

The September 22 IURC public field hearing will be held in the auditorium at the Anderson City Building (120 E. 8th St.) at 6:00 p.m. The OUCC will conduct an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m., immediately before the field hearing.

- Oral and written consumer comments will be accepted during the hearing.
- Comments carry equal weight whether they are oral or written, and will become part of the case's evidentiary record.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions during the field hearing. However, OUCC and IURC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing.

The city is seeking a two-phase rate increase along with IURC approval to issue up to \$14.27 million in long-term debt. For a residential customer using 667 cubic feet (about 5,000 gallons) per month, water charges – including fire protection charges – would increase from \$18.87 to \$22.98 when an IURC order is issued and to \$27.84 on January 1, 2016.

Anderson's testimony and exhibits cite increased operating and maintenance costs, while identifying several proposed capital improvements. Projects included in the city's request include replacing the city's Lafayette water treatment plant, making substantial upgrades to the Wheeler treatment plant, and the replacements of wells and mains. The city's current water rates were approved in 2006.

Municipal electric and sewer rates for Anderson are not at issue in this case.

(Continued)

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), has not yet taken a position in this case and is scheduled to file testimony on October 29, 2014.

More information on this case, including the city's testimony, is available online at www.in.gov/oucc/2776.htm.

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

Written comments the OUCC receives by October 22, 2014 will be filed with the Commission and included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address,** and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44510.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(IURC Cause No. 44510)

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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