



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Aqua Indiana rate case: Consumer comments invited**

If you would like to comment on Aqua Indiana's requested sewer rate increase, you're invited to do so over the next several weeks.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the utility's rate request through June 17, 2016. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – anticipates completing its review of the utility's request and filing testimony on June 24, 2016.

Aqua Indiana, Inc. is proposing a two-phase increase for its Aboite Wastewater Division, which includes more than 13,000 customers in Allen, Huntington, and Whitley Counties. The utility's testimony and exhibits cite increases in operating and maintenance costs while describing proposed capital improvements. Projects include doubling the Midwest Wastewater Treatment Plant's capacity, constructing a new office and field services building, and completing a series of infrastructure improvements aimed at addressing sanitary sewer overflow violations, manhole safety, capacity issues for current and future growth, and other matters.

The utility's proposal would generate nearly \$2.4 million in new annual operating revenues, with its proposed 29.8 percent increase applying equally to its residential, commercial, and other customer classes. The utility's exhibits show that a monthly sewer bill for a metered residential customer using 5,000 gallons of water per month would rise from \$46.98 to \$56.29 when a Commission order is issued and to \$60.96 approximately a year later. This would include an increase in the monthly service charge – the portion of the bill that does not vary with usage – from \$26.97 to \$32.32 in the case's first phase, and to \$35.00 in Phase Two. A residential customer who pays a flat, monthly unmetered rate would see his or her sewer bill rise from \$59.21 to \$70.96 when an order is issued and to \$76.83 approximately a year later.

The utility is also requesting approval of a \$1,300 system development charge. This one-time fee would not apply to current customers but would be charged to new customers or builders when a new, first-time connection is made to a home or business.

Current rates for Aqua Indiana's Aboite Wastewater Division were approved in 2011. Rates and charges for Aqua Indiana's other service territories are not at issue in this case.

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), 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

**(Continued)**

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than June 17, 2016 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 "**IURC Cause No. 44752.**"

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

The OUCC is requesting that an IURC public field hearing be held in the utility's service territory in advance of the OUCC's testimonial deadline. Updates on this case will be posted on the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2616.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2616.htm).

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(IURC Cause No. 44752)

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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