



For Immediate Release

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B & B Water Project rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the rate increase proposed by B & B Water Project, Inc., here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the request through July 11, 2016. The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is scheduled to file its report in this case on July 18, 2016.

B & B Water Project is a not-for-profit utility serving nearly 1,900 customers in Monroe County. If approved, its pending proposal would raise the monthly water bill for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons from \$29.29 to \$36.31. The utility's current base rates were approved in 1991 but have been adjusted due to increases in wholesale water costs. In its filing with the IURC, B & B Water Project cites increased operating and maintenance costs along with infrastructure costs including system mapping, improvements to underground pumping stations, new valves, and additional efforts to reduce lost water.

More information on this case is available at www.in.gov/oucc/2827.htm.

Consumers who 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

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than July 11, 2016 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its report 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. 44755-U.**"

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

B & B Water Project is seeking the rate increase through the state's Small Utility Filing Procedure, which is available to utilities with fewer than 5,000 customers and is designed to reduce the time and expense involved with regulatory filings. Savings are gained by allowing utility staff to use standardized forms and the utility's resulting need for less assistance from rate consultants or attorneys.

The standard for OUCC and IURC reviews on small utility filings is the same that applies to traditional utility filings. The OUCC conducts its review on behalf of all utility consumers while the IURC's review is conducted on behalf of the public interest (a balancing of utility and customer interests). A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

(IURC Cause No. 44755-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.

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