



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Boonville municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited**

If you would like to comment on the City of Boonville’s proposed water rate increase, here’s your opportunity.

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 the city’s request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 25, 2018.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through July 18, 2018.

Current rates for Boonville’s municipal water utility received IURC approval in 2009. The city is proposing a two-phase increase that would raise the monthly residential water rate for 5,000 gallons as follows (figures include fire protection charges):

	Current	Phase 1 Increase	Phase 2 Increase
In City	\$34.14	\$54.45	\$57.18
Out of City	\$34.14	\$67.51	\$70.90

The utility is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$6.9 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony, Boonville is seeking the rate increase and financing authorization due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need to make capital improvements. Proposed capital improvement projects include storage tank rehabilitation, main replacements and extensions, a new well, a new booster station, new meters with new metering technology, and installation of solar energy facilities at its treatment plant and wellfield.

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

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments on or before July 18, 2018 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.

**(Continued)**

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45069.**" To protect your privacy, please do not include your account number. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Only Boonville's water rates are at issue in this case. State law does not authorize the IURC to approve municipal sewer utility rates, which are set by elected city and town councils.

An IURC evidentiary hearing will be held on September 18, 2018 at the PNC Center (101 W. Washington St.) in Indianapolis. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses. A final decision in the case is expected either later this year or in January 2019.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2601.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2601.htm).

(IURC Cause No. 45069)

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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