



For Immediate Release

Apr. 4, 2022

News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

Community Utilities of Indiana Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments ***Apr. 12 IURC Public Hearing Scheduled in Northwest Indiana***

If you would like to comment on the water and sewer rate increases requested by Community Utilities of Indiana (CUII), you have the chance to do so.

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 utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Apr. 26, 2022.

Written consumer comments

While using its legal and technical resources to review the utility's request, including examining CUII's books and operations, the OUCC continues to invite written comments from customers through Apr. 19, 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, by email at 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. 19, 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. 45651**" or **Community Utilities of Indiana**. 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

An IURC public field hearing on the utility's request is scheduled for Tuesday, Apr. 12, 2022, at Boone Grove High School (260 S. 500 W., Valparaiso). The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m., local time, in the school's cafeteria.

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.

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

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- 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 the OUCC receives by Apr. 19, 2022.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, the utility filed testimony and exhibits in December 2021.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties.
- No final decisions will be made at the field hearing.

The OUCC's video (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZVZ4BcaZ1w) offers additional information on the public comment process.

Case overview

CUII provides service to approximately 5,300 water customers and 3,500 sewer customers in three northwest Indiana areas:

- The portion of Merrillville formerly served by Indiana Water Service, Inc. (IWSI),
- Lakes of the Four Seasons in Lake and Porter Counties, formerly served by Twin Lakes Utilities, Inc. (TLUI), and
- The portions of Jasper and Newton Counties formerly served by Water Service Corporation of Indiana (WSCl).

CUII is proposing a two-phase rate increase to be implemented in October 2022 and October 2023. It is also seeking IURC approval to create a new rate for qualifying low-income customers. The utility's request would raise a monthly residential bill for 5,000 gallons as follows:

	Current	Proposed: Oct. 2022	Proposed: Oct. 2023
Water - Standard Rate	\$42.44	\$76.25	\$82.60
Water - Low-Income Rate	\$42.44	\$45.40	\$49.19
Sewer - Standard Rate	\$61.34	\$86.33	\$95.83
Sewer - Low-Income Rate	\$61.34	\$58.27	\$64.69

In its filings, the utility states it is seeking the increases to cover higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for infrastructure improvements including main replacements and upgrades, treatment plant improvements, iron filter replacements, tank painting, new wells, new buildings, and new meters to be installed through 2023.

CUII's current rates received IURC approval in 2018.

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners' Association has formally intervened in this case. Any testimony it files is also due on Apr. 26, 2022.

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 currently expected in November 2022.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/community-utilities-of-indiana. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45651)

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.