



Indiana Office of Utility  
Consumer Counselor

**For Immediate Release**

**July 2, 2020**

News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

[aswinger@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:aswinger@oucc.IN.gov)

## **Cedar Lake water rate case: Consumer comments invited**

If you would like to comment on the Town of Cedar Lake's requested water rate increase, 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 town's request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 29, 2020.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through July 22, 2020.

The town is proposing a single rate tariff for all residential customers. Its requested monthly water rate for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons is \$49.55. Cedar Lake is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$3.9 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need for new capital improvements, including a new 250,000-gallon storage tank, mains, and a new well supply.

Only the town's water rates are at issue in this case. Indiana law does not give the IURC authority over municipal sewer utilities, which are regulated by locally elected city and town councils.

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), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov), or by mail at:

Consumer Services Staff  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than July 22, 2020 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. 45367.**" Please do not include account numbers and other sensitive information. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to start on Sept. 9, 2020 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 by early February 2021.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2779.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2779.htm). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/2877.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2877.htm).

(IURC Cause No. 45367)

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. Visit us at [www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC), [www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC](https://www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC), or [www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC](https://www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC).