



For Immediate Release

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Chandler municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the Chandler municipal water utility's proposed rate increase, you have the chance to do so.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is reviewing the town's request and is scheduled to file testimony with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) on August 10, 2018. The OUCC is the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC.

In addition to its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through August 3, 2018.

Chandler's municipal water utility serves more than 19,000 people in southwestern Warrick County. Its current rates received IURC approval in 2010. Chandler's pending request would raise the monthly water rate for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons from \$29.62 to \$43.00. The utility is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$29.2 million in long-term debt.

According to its testimony, the town is seeking the rate increase due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need for capital improvements. Proposed capital improvement projects include a new transmission line, the replacement and relocation of certain distribution lines to facilitate growing residential and commercial demand, and new replacements of distribution lines, valves, and hydrants within the town. Proposed rates include the principle and interest on the long-term debt used to complete the capital improvements.

The OUCC invites consumer comments for the case record online at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, and by mail, email and 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

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45062.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494. Please do not include account numbers or similar information.

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than August 3, 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.

Chandler's water rates are at issue in this case, but not its sewer rates. Indiana law does not authorize the IURC to approve municipal sewer utility rates, which are set by elected city and town councils throughout the state.

An IURC evidentiary hearing will be held on September 25, 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 early 2019.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2554.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45062)

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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