



For Immediate Release

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Citizens Wastewater of Westfield Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited; Public Hearing Set for Nov. 3

If you would like to comment on Citizens Wastewater of Westfield's requested rate increase, you have two opportunities.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) continues to invite written comments for the case record. In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in the sewer rate case on Thursday, November 3, 2016.

The IURC's November 3 hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Westfield Middle School Cafeteria (345 W. Hoover St.).

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the sewer rate case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Comments will carry equal weight whether they are oral or written.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions during the field hearing. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Consumers who are unable to attend the field hearing but 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 by November 23, 2016 so that they can 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. 44835." Consumers with questions about submitting written comments may call the OUCC toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

According to its testimony and exhibits, Citizens is seeking the increase due to capital improvements including the 156th Street Interceptor and Downtown Lift Station projects.

The utility's request would raise minimum monthly residential sewer charges for 5,000 gallons from \$51.10 to \$64.09. Monthly minimum customer charges would also be set at \$64.09 for commercial customers using 5/8 and 3/4 inch meters and at \$155.81 for commercial customers using larger meters.

(Continued)

The OUCC – which represents consumer interests in all cases before the IURC – is reviewing the proposed sewer rate increase and has until November 30, 2016 to file testimony.

Case updates will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2865.htm.

In a separate docket (IURC Cause No. 44731), Citizens Energy Group is seeking a rate increase for Citizens Gas of Westfield. The OUCC filed testimony on September 26, 2016 recommending denial. Updates on the natural gas rate case are being posted at www.in.gov/oucc/2479.htm.

Neither of the Westfield cases would affect rates or charges for Citizens customers in Marion County.

(IURC Cause No. 44835)

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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