



For Immediate Release

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Community Utilities rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the rate changes proposed by Community Utilities of Indiana, Inc. (CUII), here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the request through April 13, 2016. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – has until April 20, 2016 to file testimony.

CUII provides water service to approximately 5,000 customers and sewer service to about 3,300 customers in Northwest Indiana. It includes:

- Indiana Water Service, Inc. (IWSI) in Merrillville,
- Twin Lakes Utilities, Inc (TLUI) in the Lakes of the Four Seasons area, and
- Water Service Company of Indiana, Inc. (WSCI), near Roselawn.

Current monthly rates for a CUII residential customer using 5,000 gallons of water are as follows:

	IWSI	TLUI	WSCI
Water	\$29.97	\$32.21	\$40.86
Sewer	N/A	\$51.36	\$99.24

The utility is requesting IURC approval of a two-phase increase. New rates would be implemented in September 2016 and adjusted in October 2017. The request would unify the rates for all three of its CUII's territories under a single tariff.

Under the request, monthly water rates for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons would rise to \$46.33 in the case's first phase and to \$46.40 in the second phase. Sewer rates for the same customers in the TLUI and WSCI territories would be set at \$69.89 in Phase One and at \$71.35 in Phase Two.

The base facility charges for a residential 5/8-inch meter, or flat portions of the bills that do not vary with usage, would be set at \$12.15 for water and \$27.35 for sewer at the end of the case's second phase.

CUII is a subsidiary of Northbrook, Ill.-based Utilities, Inc. In its testimony and exhibits, it states that it is seeking \$1.6 million in new annual operating revenues due to declining usage, higher operating and maintenance costs, and to pay for completed and proposed capital improvements. Projects cited in the utility's case include new water treatment plant technology, a new sludge storage tank in the Twin Lakes service area, replacement of the water tank for the WSCI territory, a new 500,000 gallon water storage tank, and cleaning and repairs to its TLUI sewer mains in 2016 and 2017.

The Lakes of the Four Seasons Property Owners Association has intervened in this case and is also scheduled to file testimony on April 20.

(Continued)

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start on June 2, 2016 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 who have filed testimony on behalf of the case's formal parties.

For more information on the case, including links to the utility's testimony and exhibits, please visit www.in.gov/oucc/2824.htm.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the sewer rate case record 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 no later than April 13, 2016 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. 44724.**"

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(IURC Cause No. 44724)

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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