



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

For Immediate Release

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Community Natural Gas Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments

If you want to comment on Community Natural Gas Company's pending rate request, you are invited 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 May 25, 2022.

While using its legal and technical resources to analyze the request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through May 18, 2022.

Community Natural Gas provides service to more than 7,500 customers in ten southern Indiana Counties (Gibson, Posey, Dubois, Spencer, Greene, Monroe, Pike, Owen, Sullivan, and Warrick). The utility is seeking a \$1.25 million increase in its annual operating revenues in this case. Community Natural Gas also is seeking to recover \$275,000 in rate case expenses. In its testimony and exhibits, Community Natural Gas states it is seeking the increase to cover higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for infrastructure improvements.

The utility's testimony shows residential bills rising as follows under its request:

Monthly Usage	Current Gas Bill	Proposed Gas Bill
20 therms	\$32.72	\$37.33
50 therms	\$62.30	\$72.29
100 therms	\$111.59	\$130.57

Current rates for Community Natural Gas received IURC approval in 2019.

Base distribution rates comprise approximately 60 percent of a typical Community Natural Gas residential bill. They cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses and capital infrastructure improvements. The remaining 40 percent of a typical monthly bill pays for the natural gas itself, which the utility recovers on a dollar-for-dollar basis subject to OUCC review and IURC approval every three months.

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.

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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 May 18, 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. 45690**" or **Community Natural Gas**. 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 for June 30, 2022. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public and typically streamed on the Commission's website, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses.

A final Commission order is currently expected in December 2022.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/natural-gas/tips-and-publications/natural-gas-cases-of-note/community-natural-gas-rates. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45690)

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.