



For Immediate Release

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Community Natural Gas rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on Community Natural Gas Company's requested rate increase, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the utility's rate request through July 7, 2016. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is scheduled to complete its review of the utility's request and file testimony on July 14, 2016.

Community Natural Gas – a privately owned utility based in Mt. Carmel, Ill. – provides service in 10 southwestern Indiana counties (Gibson, Posey, Dubois, Spencer, Greene, Monroe, Pike, Warrick, Owen, and Sullivan). Its proposal would raise its monthly customer service charge from \$12.00 to \$13.00 for residential customers and from \$24.00 to \$30.00 for commercial customers. The proposal would also increase the base rate's volumetric portion, increasing the utility's annual operating revenues by approximately 19.25 percent. According to its testimony and exhibits, the utility is seeking the rate increase due to rises in operating and maintenance costs, as well as new infrastructure investments. Its request would raise a total monthly residential bill for 10 dekatherms from \$84.82 to \$95.17.

The proposed increase in this case would only apply to the utility's base distribution rate, which comprises approximately 45 to 50 percent of a typical Community Natural Gas residential customer's monthly heating bill. Base distribution rates cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses, and capital infrastructure improvements.

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, 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 July 7, 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. 44768**."

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 scheduled to start on October 18, 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 witnesses who have filed technical testimony on behalf of the case's formal parties.

Updates on this case will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2481.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 44768)

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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