



**Indiana
Office of Utility
Consumer Counselor**

For Immediate Release

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Doe Creek Sewer Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments
IURC Public Hearing Set for Feb. 22 in Greenfield

If you would like to comment on Doe Creek Sewer Utility's pending rate request, you have the chance to do so. The utility provides sewage disposal service in western Hancock County.

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 Doe Creek's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Mar. 16, 2022.

Written consumer comments

While using its legal and technical resources to review Doe Creek's request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through Mar. 9, 2022.

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 Mar. 9, 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. 45655-U**" or **Doe Creek Sewer Utility**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public field hearing

The IURC is currently scheduled to hold a public field hearing on the utility's request on Tues., Feb. 22, 2022, at the Hancock County Public Library's Greenfield Branch (900 West McKenzie Road in Greenfield). The hearing is scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. in GBC Community Room A & B.

Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations.

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The field hearing's sole purpose is to receive public testimony.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments during the hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Mar. 9, 2022.
- An IURC field hearing does not include a question-and-answer session or a presentation from the utility. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, the utility filed its request in December 2021. The Commission will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility and the OUCC.
- No final decisions will be made at the field hearing.

Sworn comments presented at the field hearing will carry the same weight as written consumer comments filed by the OUCC.

Case overview

Doe Creek Sewer Utility is seeking IURC approval to raise its minimum monthly residential sewer rate from \$48.00 to \$84.15. Current rates for Doe Creek, which provides sewage disposal service to 385 residential and commercial customers in western Hancock County, received IURC approval in 2009.

In its filings, the utility states it is seeking the increase to cover higher operating and maintenance costs, along with nearly \$400,000 in improvements to its wastewater treatment plant.

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.

A final Commission order is expected later this year.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/featured-topics/doe-creek-sewer-utility-rate-case/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45655-U)

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.