



For Immediate Release

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Evansville municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited *IURC public hearing set for June 25 in Evansville*

If you would like to comment on the City of Evansville’s proposed water rate increase, you have two opportunities.

Consumers may:

- **Send written comments to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)** by July 13, 2018, and/or
- **Speak at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission’s (IURC’s) public field hearing in Evansville** on Monday, June 25, 2018. The hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. local time in the Benjamin Bosse High School Auditorium (1300 Washington Avenue).

Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. During the field hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- 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.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC, is using its legal and technical resources to review Evansville’s request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 20, 2018.

Current rates for Evansville’s municipal water utility received IURC approval in October 2016. The city is proposing a three-phase increase that would raise monthly residential water charges for 5,000 gallons as follows:

	Current	Phase 1 (When order is issued)	Phase 2 (Jan. 1, 2020)	Phase 3 (Jan. 1, 2021)
In City*	\$32.54	\$38.80	\$44.83	\$48.40
Out of City*	\$33.74	\$38.80	\$44.83	\$48.40

*Amounts include fire protection charges & reflect elimination of the Out of City surcharge as proposed by the utility.

Evansville is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$147.3 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the changes to pay for proposed capital improvements and increased operating and maintenance costs. Specific projects in the utility’s capital plan include a number of improvements addressing operational needs and environmental regulatory compliance at the city’s water treatment plant, dredging for the utility’s Ohio River intake structure, pump and tank maintenance, booster station replacements and improvements, a leak detection system, new meters and hydrants, and main extensions and replacements.

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The utility's testimony indicates that approximately 60 percent of Evansville's water distribution system uses cast iron mains with an average age of about 90 years.

Only Evansville's water rates are at issue in this case. State law does not authorize the IURC to approve municipal sewer utility rates, which are set by elected city and town councils.

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 13, 2018 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. 45073.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494. Please do not include account numbers or other sensitive information.

An IURC order is expected in December 2018 or January 2019. Case updates are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2691.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45073)

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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