



**For Immediate Release**

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## Evansville Municipal Water rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the City of Evansville’s proposed water rate increase, you’re invited to do so over the next several weeks.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the utility’s rate request through July 6, 2016. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – anticipates completing its review of the utility’s request and filing testimony on July 13, 2016.

Evansville is proposing a two-phase water rate increase, while requesting Commission authorization to issue up to \$40 million in long-term debt. The city’s testimony and exhibits cite increases in operating and maintenance costs while describing a four-year, \$104 million capital improvement plan. Projects include replacements of aging distribution mains, fire hydrants, valves, aging machinery, and vehicles, along with a preliminary engineering study to review the city’s future water treatment options.

The city’s proposal would raise the monthly water charges for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons by the following amounts, including the fire protection surcharge:

	Current	Phase 1 (When order is issued)	Phase 2 (Jan. 1, 2018)
In City	\$22.01	\$28.25	\$32.81
Out of City	\$23.63	\$29.29	\$34.02

The IURC approved Evansville’s current water rates in 2013, with the order authorizing a three-year phase-in of the approved rates.

Only the city’s water rates are at issue in this case. Indiana law does not give the IURC jurisdiction over municipal sewer utilities, leaving oversight of municipal sewer rates to locally 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](http://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](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than July 6, 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. 44760.**"

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

An IURC public field hearing will be held in Evansville on a future date to be determined. Updates on this case will be posted on the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2691.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2691.htm).

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(IURC Cause No. 44760)

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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