



For Immediate Release

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Evansville Municipal Water rate case: Public Hearing May 25

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) encourages Evansville municipal water utility customers to comment on the utility’s pending rate request. Consumers may do either or both of two things:

1. Speak at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission’s (IURC’s) Wednesday, May 25, 2016 public field hearing, or
2. Submit written comments to the OUCC by the close of business on Wednesday, July 6, 2016.

The IURC’s May 25 public field hearing will be held in the Evansville North High School Auditorium (15331 US 41) at 6:00 p.m. local time. An OUCC informational meeting on field hearing procedures and the regulatory process will start at 5:30 p.m.

During the public field hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Comments will carry equal weight whether they are oral or written.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Consumers who are unable to attend the field hearing can submit written comments 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 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.**”

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

(Continued)

Evansville is also requesting IURC permission 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 IURC approved Evansville's current water rates in 2013, with the order allowing the rate changes to be phased in over a three-year period.

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.

Case updates will be posted on the OUCC's website at 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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