



For Immediate Release

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Frankfort municipal electric rate case: Consumer comments invited, Public hearing Dec. 5

If you would like to comment on the City of Frankfort's proposed electric rate increase, you have a couple of opportunities to do so.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments for the case record. In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing on Monday, December 5.

The IURC's December 5 hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Frankfort Middle School cafeteria (329 N. Maish Rd.).

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the rate case.
- 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 during the field hearing. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Frankfort's electric base rates were approved in 1997, though bills have risen since then due to increases in wholesale electricity costs. Under the city's request, the monthly residential electric bill for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month would rise from \$100.77 to \$108.57. The flat, monthly customer service charge for residential customers would rise from \$4.00 to \$15.00 while volumetric charges would also be adjusted. In addition, the city is requesting IURC approval to issue up to \$12.5 million in long-term debt.

The city cites increases in operating and maintenance costs in its filings before the Commission, along with numerous proposed capital improvements. Proposed projects include a new substation, substation upgrades, circuit improvements, pole replacements, and communication network upgrades.

Only Frankfort's municipal electric rates are at issue in this case. Frankfort's municipal water and sewer rates are not under IURC jurisdiction.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is scheduled to complete its review of the city's request and file testimony on January 17, 2017.

(Continued)

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 January 10, 2017 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. 44856.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Case updates will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2752.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 44856)

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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