



For Immediate Release

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Fort Wayne municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited *IURC public hearing set for September 24 in Fort Wayne*

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

Consumers may:

- **Send written comments to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)** by October 23, 2018, and/or
- **Speak at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission’s (IURC’s) public field hearing in Fort Wayne** on Monday, September 24, 2018. The hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. local time in the Homestead High School Auditorium (4310 Homestead Road).

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 Fort Wayne’s request and is scheduled to file testimony on October 30, 2018.

Current rates for Fort Wayne’s municipal water utility received IURC approval in 2012. The city is proposing a five-phase increase in this case; the first phase would take effect when a Commission order is issued next year, with each following phase to take effect every 12 months. Under the request, monthly residential water charges for 700 cubic feet (approximately 5,230 gallons) would rise as follows:

	Current	Phase 1 (2019)	Phase 2 (2020)	Phase 3 (2021)	Phase 4 (2022)	Phase 5 (2023)
In City*	\$26.20	\$27.73	\$29.38	\$31.14	\$32.94	\$34.86
Out of City*	\$30.20	\$31.64	\$33.19	\$34.91	\$36.59	\$38.38

*Amounts include fire protection surcharges.

Fort Wayne is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$85.5 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony and exhibits, the city is seeking the changes due to increased operating and maintenance costs, and to pay for numerous proposed capital improvements. Projects cited in the utility’s filings include replacement and rehabilitation of aging and deteriorating mains throughout the city’s water distribution system, filtration plant improvements, dam and reservoir improvements, pumping and storage projects, and deployment of advanced meters via a new communication network.

(Continued)

Only Fort Wayne'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, via email at uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov, or by mail at:

Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than October 23, 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. 45125.**" 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 during the first half of 2019. The OUCC is posting updates on this case at www.in.gov/oucc/2705.htm. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe by emailing uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov.

(IURC Cause No. 45125)

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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