



For Immediate Release

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Gibson Water rate case: Consumer comments invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting consumer comments on Gibson Water, Inc.'s request for new rates and charges.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is scheduled to file testimony on August 24, 2018.

In addition to its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through August 17, 2018.

Gibson Water, a not-for-profit utility based in Haubstadt, provides service to about 1,750 customers in Gibson County. Its current base rates received IURC approval in 1986. All of the utility's rate increases since then have been for dollar-for-dollar recovery of wholesale water costs. The utility buys all of its water from the City of Evansville.

The utility's request would raise a monthly residential water bill for 5,000 gallons from \$38.98 to \$45.68. In addition, Gibson Water is requesting IURC authority to issue up to \$3.5 million in long-term debt.

According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need for capital improvements. Proposed projects in the utility's testimony include main extensions, booster station upgrades, pump replacements, and construction of a parallel transmission main to Evansville.

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

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45080.**" 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, social security numbers, or other personal information.

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than August 17, 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.

An IURC evidentiary hearing will be held on October 5, 2018 at the PNC Center (101 W. Washington St.) in Indianapolis. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses. A final decision in the case is expected by early 2019.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2898.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45080)

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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