



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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For Immediate Release
April 2, 2012

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Indiana Michigan Power rate case: Public hearings coming up
IURC Public Field Hearings in Fort Wayne (4/23), South Bend (4/24) and Muncie (4/25)
OUCC inviting written consumer comments through 4/25

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is reminding Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) customers that they have several opportunities to comment on the utility's pending base rate case.

The OUCC – which represents consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is accepting written consumer comments for the case record through Wednesday, April 25, 2012. In addition, the IURC will hold three public field hearings in I&M's service territory:

- **Monday, April 23:** Grand Wayne Convention Center, 120 West Jefferson Blvd., **Fort Wayne**
- **Tuesday, April 24:** South Bend Century Center, 120 South Saint Joseph St., **South Bend**
- **Wednesday, April 25:** Muncie City Hall Auditorium, 300 North High St., **Muncie**

Each field hearing's public comment portion will start at 6:00 p.m., local time.

- Sworn oral and written comments regarding the rate case will be accepted during the field hearings.
- Oral and written consumer comments carry equal weight and will become part of the official evidentiary record considered by the IURC in reaching its final decision.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer consumer questions during the formal field hearings. (However, OUCC and IURC staff will be available before during and after each hearing.)

An OUCC informational session on the regulatory process and public field hearing procedures will precede each hearing, starting at 5:30 p.m.

“Consumer input is crucial, and it is very important that we hear from customers while we continue with our technical and legal review of I&M's rate request,” said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor David Stippler. “Whether a consumer speaks at a field hearing or sends written comments to the OUCC, we encourage public participation, and now is the time for customers to speak up.”

The OUCC is scheduled to complete its review and file testimony with the IURC in the rate case on Friday, April 27.

(Continued)

I&M's requested base rate increase, according to its testimony and exhibits, would raise the monthly bill for a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) by 25.38 percent.

The rate case (IURC Cause No. 44075) is one of several I&M cases that may have a significant, cumulative impact on I&M customer bills. **Separately from the rate case:**

- I&M is seeking rate recovery for new pollution control equipment at its Rockport Generating Facility (in IURC Cause No. 44033). The utility's testimony in that case does not specify how the \$1.4 billion Rockport project would affect Indiana customer bills, with I&M scheduled to file additional testimony on April 30.
- I&M is also expected to request IURC approval of a Life Cycle Management project for its D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant this year. In its rate case testimony, I&M estimates the Cook project costs will be less than \$2 billion.

Consumers who would like to provide written comments may do so online 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

Written comments on the rate case should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to **"IURC Cause No. 44075."**

Other parties that have intervened in this case are also scheduled to file testimony on April 27. They include the cities of South Bend and Fort Wayne, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Ecos Energy, Inovateus Solar, LLC, AEP Indiana Michigan Transmission Company, Inc., and a number of I&M's industrial customers (including Air Products & Chemicals, Inc., I/N Tek LP, General Motors Corporation, Marathon Petroleum Company LLC, New Energy Corp., Praxair, Inc., Saint-Gobain Containers, The Linde Group, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Steel Dynamics, Inc., and The Kroger Company).

For more information on the rate case, please visit the OUCC's Website at www.in.gov/oucc/2667.htm.

I&M, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power (AEP), provides service to approximately 458,000 customers in 24 Indiana counties.

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(IURC Cause No. 44075)

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.

To learn more, visit www.IN.gov/OUCC or follow us at www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC.