



For Immediate Release

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IPL Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments *IURC Schedules Public Hearings for Apr. 23 and May 7*

If you are an Indianapolis Power & Light Co. (IPL) customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending rate request, you have several opportunities.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing IPL's request and is scheduled to file testimony on May 24, 2018.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written comments from IPL's residential, commercial, and industrial customers through May 17, 2018.

In addition, the IURC will hold two public field hearings in Indianapolis:

- Monday, April 23, 2018: Arsenal Technical High School (Anderson Hall), 1500 E. Michigan St.
- Monday, May 7, 2018: New Augusta Public Academy-North (Auditorium), 6450 Rodebaugh Rd.

Each hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. Consumers are encouraged to arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process.

At each IURC field hearing:

- 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.

IPL provides electricity to approximately 490,000 customers in Marion County and portions of nine additional counties.

Under IPL's request, a monthly residential electric bill for 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) would rise from \$112.95 to \$124.38.

- This would include raises to the utility's flat monthly customer charges.
 - The monthly charge for a residential customer using more than 325 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month would rise from \$17.00 to \$27.00.
 - For a residential customer using less than 325 kWh, the monthly charge would rise from \$11.25 to \$16.00.
 - Flat monthly charges for commercial customers would rise, varying by tariff.
- The volumetric part of the base rate would also rise.

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- The request would give IPL an increase of approximately \$96.7 million in overall annual operating revenues, which is a raise of nearly 7.1 percent over current revenues. IPL originally requested a \$124.5 increase (about 9.1 percent) but adjusted it in February 2018 due to changes under the federal Tax Cuts & Jobs Act.
- In its testimony and exhibits, IPL states that it is seeking the new rates due to increases in operating and maintenance costs, and to pay for major capital improvements, primarily the newly built Eagle Valley Generating Station in Morgan County. The utility is also requesting funding for the Advancion battery energy storage facility at the Harding Street generating station, cost recovery for substation upgrades, the creation of a new reserve fund for tree trimming and vegetation management, and additional funds for major storm damage recovery.
- IPL's current electric rates received IURC approval in 2016. However, bills have changed since then due to rate recovery mechanisms – or “trackers” – which allow rate increases for specific items on an expedited basis.
 - Trackers are separate from base rates and are subject to OUCC review and IURC approval.
 - All Indiana investor-owned electric utilities use trackers to varying degrees.
 - IPL uses trackers to recover costs for generating fuel, energy efficiency programs, environmental mandates, off-system sales, capacity cost recovery, renewable energy options, and regional transmission.

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 May 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. Comments should include the consumer's **name**, **mailing address**, and a reference to “**IURC Cause No. 45029**.” Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Several additional parties have intervened in this case and are also scheduled to file testimony on May 24, 2018. They include the City of Lawrence, University of Indianapolis, IBEW Local 1395, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Indiana Coalition for Human Services, Indiana Community Action Association, Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, Kroger, Wal-Mart, Sam's East, and the following industrial customers: Allison Transmission, Cargill, Eli Lilly and Company, Indiana University Health, Ingredion, Praxair Surface Technologies, and Vertellus Integrated Pyridines.

A final order is expected this fall. The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/2889.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45029)

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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