



For Immediate Release

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Indiana Utilities Corporation rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on Indiana Utilities Corporation's requested natural gas rate increase, here's your opportunity.

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 the utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on October 17, 2018.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through October 10, 2018.

Indiana Utilities Corporation is a privately owned utility providing natural gas service to about 3,100 customers in Harrison and Floyd Counties. Its pending request would raise its annual non-gas-cost operating revenues by approximately \$270,000. The impact on a customer's bill would vary based on usage; however, the utility's request would increase the flat, monthly residential customer charge from \$11.67 to \$15.00.

The utility's current base rates were approved in 2012. According to its testimony, Indiana Utilities Corporation is seeking the increase due to higher operating and maintenance costs.

The proposed increase in this case would only apply to the utility's base distribution rate, which comprises between 64 and 68 percent of a typical Indiana Utilities Corporation residential customer's monthly heating bill. Base distribution rates cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses, and capital infrastructure improvements. The rest of a typical monthly heating bill pays for the natural gas itself, which the utility recovers on a dollar-for-dollar basis subject to OUCC review and IURC approval every six months.

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, by 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 10, 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.

(Continued)

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45116.**" Please do not include account numbers and other sensitive information. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled for December 11, 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 in 2019.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2663.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. 45116)

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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