



For Immediate Release

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LMS rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the water rate increase proposed by Lawrenceburg, Manchester, and Sparta (LMS) Townships Conservancy District, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the request through April 27, 2017. The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is scheduled to file its report in this case on May 4, 2017.

LMS Townships Conservancy District provides water utility service to more than 2,000 customers in Dearborn County. Under its pending request, the monthly water bill for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons would increase from \$25.16 to \$30.16. The district requests funds to cover proposed debt for various projects in its filing, including water tower painting and rehabilitation, new vehicles, and a new well field control building. The district's current water rates were approved in 2013.

More information on this case is available at www.in.gov/oucc/2719.htm.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments 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 April 27, 2017 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its report 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. 44900-U.**"

Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

LMS Townships Conservancy District is seeking the rate increase through the state's Small Utility Filing Procedure, which is available to utilities with fewer than 5,000 customers and is designed to reduce the time and expense involved with regulatory filings. Savings are gained by allowing utility staff to use standardized forms resulting in utilities needing less assistance from rate consultants or attorneys.

The standard for OUCC and IURC reviews on small utility filings is the same that applies to traditional utility filings. The OUCC conducts its review on behalf of all utility consumers while the IURC's review is conducted on behalf of the public interest (a balancing of utility and customer interests). A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

(IURC Cause No. 44900-U)

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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