



For Immediate Release

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News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

Mapleturn Utilities rate cases: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on Mapleturn Utilities, Inc.'s proposed rate changes, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the requests through September 23, 2016. The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), anticipates filing its reports in these cases on September 28, 2016.

Mapleturn Utilities is a not-for-profit entity serving approximately 600 customers in Morgan County. Its current water and sewer rates, respectively, were approved in 1996 and 2010. In its filings with the IURC, the utility cites increases in operating and maintenance costs along with proposed capital improvements including new generators and lift stations. The utility is proposing to implement the proposed increases in two phases. The minimum residential monthly water charge for up to 7,000 gallons would rise from \$22.15 to \$26.32 in 2017, and to \$30.48 in 2018. The flat, monthly residential sewage disposal charge, under the utility's request, would go from \$59.57 to \$61.80 in 2017, and to \$64.03 in 2018.

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 September 23, 2016 so that it can: 1) Consider them in preparing its reports and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the cases' formal evidentiary records. Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to **"IURC Cause Nos. 44842-U & 44843-U."**

Updates on these cases will be posted at www.in.gov/oucc/2578.htm. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Mapleturn Utilities is seeking the water increases 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 and the utility's resulting need for 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 Nos. 44842-U, 44843-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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