



Indiana Office of Utility
Consumer Counselor

For Immediate Release

September 10, 2019

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Martinsville municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on the City of Martinsville's proposed water rate increase, here's your chance.

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 city's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Nov. 7, 2019.

Along with its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through Nov. 1, 2019.

Current rates for Martinsville's municipal water utility received IURC approval in 2012. The city is proposing a three-phase increase. If approved, the monthly water rate for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons would rise from \$37.45 to \$40.63 in 2021. It would then rise to \$42.89 in 2022 and \$44.87 in 2023. The amounts include fire protection charges.

Martinsville is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$6.42 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need for new capital improvements. Specific projects cited in the city's testimony include redevelopment of its existing wellfield, treatment plant modifications, and main, hydrant, and booster station replacements.

Only the city's water rates are at issue in this case. Indiana law does not give the IURC authority over municipal sewer/wastewater utility rates, which are approved by locally elected city and town councils.

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:

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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 Nov. 1, 2019 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. 45262."** 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.

IURC evidentiary hearings are scheduled for December 17, 2019 and January 13, 2020 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 the spring of 2020.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2697.htm. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/2877.htm

(IURC Cause No. 45262)

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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