



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Midwest Natural Gas Infrastructure Case: Consumer Comments Invited**

If you would like to comment on Midwest Natural Gas Corporation's proposed infrastructure improvement plan, you have the chance to do so. The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments through July 10, 2017 on the utility's proposed \$2.2 million plan for distribution system improvements.

Midwest Natural Gas Corp. has filed its plan with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) under a 2013 Indiana law.

- The law allows an investor-owned electric or natural gas utility to seek IURC approval of a seven-year infrastructure improvement plan. The IURC must rule on the request within 210 days.
- If the plan is approved, the utility may then adjust rates every six months, subject to OUCC review and IURC approval, to recover project costs as they are incurred. The OUCC and IURC review periods are limited to 60 and 90 days, respectively.
- The rate adjustments – under a Transmission, Distribution, and Storage System Improvement Charge (TDSIC) mechanism – may not exceed two percent of the utility's total retail revenues.
- Recovery of 20 percent of the costs must be deferred until the utility's next base rate case, which must be filed before the end of the seven-year period.

According to the utility's testimony and exhibits, the proposed plan includes one project – the Odon South pipeline in Daviess County – that will be built in six phases and finished by the end of 2020.

Midwest Natural Gas Corp. states in testimony that it has not yet decided whether to seek rate recovery for the Odon South project through the TDSIC tracker. If it does not, then it may recover the costs in a future rate case.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is reviewing the utility's proposed plan and is scheduled to file testimony on July 17, 2017.

Under the law's timing requirements, the IURC must issue an order on the plan by early December 2017.

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](http://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](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov)
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

**(Continued)**

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than July 10, 2017 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. 44942.**"

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 to start on August 16, 2017 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 witnesses who have filed technical testimony on behalf of the case's formal parties.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/2664.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2664.htm).

In a separate case (IURC Cause No. 44880), Midwest Natural Gas Corp. is seeking an annual increase of about \$962,000 in its base rates and charges. The OUCC recommends limiting the base rate increase to approximately \$552,000.

Midwest Natural Gas Corp. provides service in ten southern Indiana counties (Clark, Daviess, Greene, Monroe, Jackson, Jennings, Knox, Orange, Scott, and Washington).

Other utilities that have received approval to implement seven-year plans include Duke Energy, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), Vectren Energy Delivery, and Community Natural Gas Corp.

(IURC Cause No. 44942)

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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