



For Immediate Release

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Midwest Natural Gas rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on Midwest Natural Gas Corporation's requested rate increase, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the utility's request through February 13, 2017. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is scheduled to complete its review of the utility's request and file testimony on February 20, 2017.

Midwest Natural Gas Corp. – a privately owned utility based in Washington, Ind. – provides service in 10 southern Indiana counties (Clark, Daviess, Greene, Jackson, Jennings, Knox, Monroe, Orange, Scott, and Washington). According to its testimony and exhibits, the utility is seeking the rate increase due to rises in operating and maintenance costs, as well as new infrastructure investments. Its request would raise a total monthly residential bill for 10 dekatherms from \$88.86 to \$97.12. The \$12.00 monthly customer service charge for residential customers would not change, while the commercial customer service charge would rise from \$24.00 to \$26.00.

The proposed increase in this case would only apply to the utility's base distribution rate, which comprises between 50 and 55 percent of a typical Midwest Natural Gas residential customer's monthly heating bill. Base distribution rates cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses, and capital infrastructure improvements. The utility's current base rates were approved in 2012.

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, 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 February 13, 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. 44880**." 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 April 11, 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.

Updates on this case will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2664.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 44880)

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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