



For Immediate Release

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Morgan County Rural Water rate case: Consumer comments invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting consumer comments on Morgan County Rural Water Corporation's request for new rates and charges.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is scheduled to file testimony on May 10, 2019.

In addition to its legal and technical review, the OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through May 3, 2019.

Morgan County Rural Water Corp., a not-for-profit utility based in Martinsville, provides service to about 3,400 customers in Morgan and Owen Counties. Its current base rates received IURC approval in 2006. Rate changes since then have been for dollar-for-dollar recovery of wholesale water costs.

The utility's request includes the elimination of the monthly \$9.74 surcharge for customers in the utility's Western Expansion Area. Under the proposal, a monthly residential water bill for 5,000 gallons would rise from \$53.62 to \$60.65, except in the Western Expansion Area. A customer with the same usage in the Western Expansion Area would see a bill decrease from \$63.36 to \$60.65.

According to its testimony, Morgan County Rural Water Corp. is seeking the changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs along with the need for capital improvements. Proposed projects in the utility's testimony include new mains, main replacements, and booster station improvements, along with treatment plant improvements, new equipment, and meter replacements.

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, via email at uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov, or by mail at

Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 45198.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494. Please do not include account numbers, social security numbers, or other personal information.

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than May 3 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.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start on Jul. 18, 2019 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 this fall.

Updates on this case are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2903.htm. Updates are also available through the agency's monthly newsletter; consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/2877.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45198)

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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