



For Immediate Release

January 16, 2019

News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

NIPSCO electric rate case: Public input invited
IURC public hearings scheduled for Jan. 28 and 30
OUCC inviting written consumer comments through Jan. 31

If you would like to comment on Northern Indiana Public Service Company's (NIPSCO's) request for an electric rate increase, you have the opportunity to do so.

Consumers may:

- **Send written comments to the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)** by Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, and/or
- **Speak at either of the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearings in this case.**

The IURC public hearings are scheduled for:

- Monday, Jan. 28, 2019 in **Hammond** (Hammond High School Auditorium, 5926 Calumet Ave.) and
- Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019 in **Goshen** (Goshen College Newcomer Center, 1900 S. Main St.).

Each hearing starts at 6:00 p.m. local time. Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. During the field hearings:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after each hearing to address questions about the process.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC, is using its legal and technical resources to review NIPSCO's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Feb. 6, 2019.

OUCC analysts are reviewing the potential impact of the proposed increase, including its effects on residential bills.

- In its testimony and exhibits, NIPSCO states that its proposal would raise monthly electric charges for an average residential customer – using 689 kilowatt hours (kWh) – from \$94.54 to \$105.96. According to NIPSCO's exhibits, a residential customer using 1,000 kWh would see his or her monthly electric charges rise from \$130.96 to \$146.07.
- Within the rates, NIPSCO's monthly residential customer charge – which does not vary by use or among customers – would rise from \$14.00 to \$17.00. Flat monthly charges for small and medium commercial customers would rise from \$24.00 to \$30.00.

(Continued)

- In its testimony and exhibits, NIPSCO identifies the case’s “key drivers” as realignment of depreciation rates for its coal-fired generating facilities (including costs of planned generating facility retirements), impacts from the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, and the “near term” shifting recovery of certain costs from industrial customers to other customers, to address options industrial customers have for generating more of their own electricity. In this case, NIPSCO is proposing tariff changes that would allow its largest customers greater access to wholesale power market pricing while retaining them as retail customers.
- NIPSCO’s current base electric rates were approved in July 2016. However, billing amounts have changed since then due to rate recovery mechanisms – or “trackers” – which allow rate increases for specific items on an expedited basis.
 - Trackers are separate from base rates and are also subject to OUCC review and IURC approval.
 - All Indiana investor-owned electric utilities use trackers to varying degrees.
 - NIPSCO uses trackers to recover costs for generating fuel, energy efficiency programs, environmental mandates, resource adequacy, cybersecurity, transmission and distribution system upgrades, and regional transmission.

NIPSCO’s electric rates were adjusted downward in April 2018, to reflect federal income tax reductions the utility received under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Natural gas rates and charges are not at issue in this case. NIPSCO’s electric utility provides service to more than 468,000 customers in 20 counties.

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

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than Jan. 31, 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.

Comments should include the consumer’s **name, mailing address**, and a reference to “**IURC Cause No. 45159.**” 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 or other sensitive information.

Additional parties that have formally intervened in this case include eight municipal governments (the Cities of East Chicago and Valparaiso, and the Towns of Highland, Schererville, Munster, Dyer, Griffith, and Winfield), the Sierra Club, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, the Indiana Coal Council, Peabody Coalsales, Wal-Mart, and a number of the utility’s industrial customers (including Accurate Castings, ArcelorMittal, BP Products North America, Cargill, Enbridge Energy, NLMK, Praxair, and USG Corporation). Any testimony from the intervenors is due on Feb. 6, 2019.

An IURC order is expected during the summer of 2019. The OUCC is posting updates on this case at www.in.gov/oucc/2901.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. 45159)

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.

Visit us at www.IN.gov/OUCC, www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC, or www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC.

Sign up for our monthly newsletter at www.IN.gov/OUCC/2877.htm.