



**For Immediate Release**

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## **CenterPoint Energy Wind Generation Case: Consumer Comments Invited**

If you are a CenterPoint Energy customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending wind generation proposal, you have the chance to do so.

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 utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Feb. 27, 2023.

While using its legal and technical resources to analyze the request, the OUCC is inviting written public comments through Feb. 22, 2023.

In testimony and exhibits filed in January 2023, CenterPoint Energy is requesting IURC approval of a build transfer agreement to operate a new wind generation facility, to be built and placed in service by 2025. CenterPoint Energy's testimony confirms that the facility would be located out-of-state; however, the project's specific location and nameplate capacity are redacted from the utility's public filing.

The utility is seeking approval to recover project costs – estimated in its testimony at \$636 million – through electric rates. In its exhibits, CenterPoint Energy estimates that the new facility would add \$19.86 to a monthly residential bill for 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). The billing estimate takes the receipt of federal tax credits into account but does not include offsets from the potential sale of renewable energy credits.

Rate changes due to the project would not take effect immediately under the utility's proposal but would likely be included in the next approval of new base electric rates. CenterPoint Energy's testimony electric utility is required to file a general rate case by the end of 2023; a general rate case in Indiana typically follows a 10-month timeframe.

As it reviews CenterPoint Energy's pending request, the OUCC is focused primarily on affordability concerns, and on whether the wind proposal would give the utility the most cost-effective means of meeting its customers' long-term electric reliability and resilience needs, including costs of the proposed agreement and related transmission costs.

Consumer comments are welcome via the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov), or by mail at:

Public Comments  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)  
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Comments received by Feb. 22, 2023 will be: 1) Considered by the OUCC preparing its testimony and 2) Filed with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record.

**(Continued)**

Written comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 45836**" or CenterPoint Energy. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

A group of the utility's industrial customers (including Consolidated Grain and Barge, CountryMark Refining and Logistics, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana) has formally intervened in the case. Any testimony from the intervenors is due on Feb. 27, 2023.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start on Apr. 11, 2023. 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.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. If an agreement is reached, the settling parties are required to present evidence showing it to be in the public interest. The IURC may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-energy-wind-petition/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-energy-wind-petition/). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/news](http://www.in.gov/oucc/news).

CenterPoint Energy provides electric service to approximately 145,000 customers in seven southwestern Indiana counties. Natural gas rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

(IURC Cause No. 45836)

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.