



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Midwest Natural Gas Corporation Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited**

If you are a Midwest Natural Gas Corporation customer, you are invited to comment on the utility's proposed rate increase.

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 Aug. 23, 2023.

While using its legal and technical resources to analyze the request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through Aug. 16, 2023.

According to its petition, Midwest Natural Gas Corporation is seeking a \$1.99 million increase in its annual operating revenues. The utility's testimony states the increase is necessary to cover higher operating and maintenance costs and pay for infrastructure improvements. The utility provides service to approximately 15,000 customers across ten counties in southern and south-central Indiana.

Midwest Natural Gas Corporation's current rates received IURC approval in 2017. Base distribution rates comprise approximately 40% of a typical Midwest Natural Gas customer's residential bill. They cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses and capital infrastructure improvements. The remaining 60% percent of a typical monthly bill pays for the natural gas itself, which the utility recovers on a dollar-for-dollar basis subject to OUCC review and IURC approval every three months.

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.

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), 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

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Aug. 16, 2023**, 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45888**" or **Midwest Natural Gas Corporation**. 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 currently scheduled to start on Oct. 23, 2023. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses. A final Commission order is expected in early 2024.

**(Continued)**

The OUC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/natural-gas/key-cases-by-utility/midwest-natural-gas-corp-rates/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/natural-gas/key-cases-by-utility/midwest-natural-gas-corp-rates/). 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).

(IURC Cause No. 45888)

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.