



For Immediate Release

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NIPSCO Natural Gas Rates: Public Comments Invited

IURC Hearing Scheduled for Jan. 8 in Fort Wayne

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on the pending NIPSCO Natural Gas rate request through Jan. 24, 2024.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Fort Wayne on Jan. 8, 2024.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to analyze NIPSCO’s proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Jan. 31, 2024.

Written Consumer Comments

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, by email at 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 Jan. 24, 2024**, 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, city, & zip code**, and a reference to either “**IURC Cause No. 45967**” or **NIPSCO Gas Rates**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC’s consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearings

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing in this case for Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at the Purdue University Fort Wayne – Walb Student Union Classic Ballroom (2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.).

The hearing will begin 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. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearings.

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The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision in this case is expected later next year.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearings will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Jan. 24, 2024.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, AES Indiana filed testimony and exhibits in October 2023.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties.

State law requires a field hearing in this case in Fort Wayne because it is the largest municipality the utility serves. The OUCC has requested an additional field hearing in the NIPSCO gas service territory; that request is pending before the IURC.

Case Overview

NIPSCO is seeking a two-phase, \$161.9 million increase in its natural gas utility's annual operating revenues. According to its filing, the utility is seeking the increase due to infrastructure improvements and higher operating and maintenance costs.

NIPSCO's testimony and exhibits show that its request, when fully implemented in March 2025, would raise total residential natural gas charges as follows:

Monthly Usage	Current Gas Bill	Proposed Gas Bill
50 therms	\$54.89	\$64.90
70 therms	\$70.35	\$80.65
100 therms	\$93.54	\$104.29

Each NIPSCO residential gas bill includes a monthly \$16.25 customer service charge which does not vary based on usage. It would rise to \$25.50 under the utility's request. The remainder of the bill varies by customer usage.

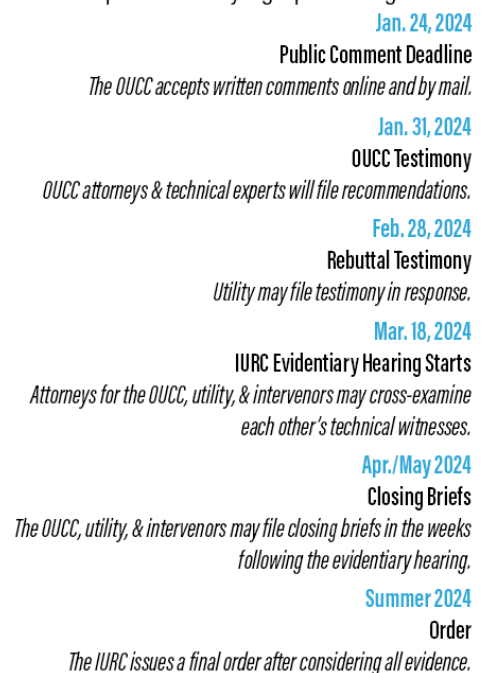
NIPSCO's current gas base rates received IURC approval in July 2022. Total billing amounts have varied since then due to changes in wholesale commodity costs along with incremental increases to pay for specific infrastructure and federally mandated costs as allowed by Indiana law.

Base distribution rates comprise slightly more than half of a typical NIPSCO customer's residential natural gas bill. They cover "non-gas" costs such as operating and maintenance expenses and capital infrastructure improvements. The remainder 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.

NIPSCO provides natural gas service to approximately 859,000 customers across 32 counties. Electric rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

NIPSCO Natural Gas Rate Case Timeline

All dates are subject to change. A settlement is possible in any legal proceeding.



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Additional parties that have intervened in this case include the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Direct Energy, United Steelworkers Locals 12775 and 13796, and industrial customers including BP Products North America, Inc., Cleveland Cliffs Inc., General Motors, Linde, United States Steel Corporation, and the University of Notre Dame.

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/natural-gas/key-cases-by-utility/nipsco-gas-rates/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45967)

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.