



**For Immediate Release**

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# **NIPSCO Electric Rate Case: OUCC Invites Public Comments**

## ***IURC Hearings Scheduled in Hammond & Valparaiso***

If you would like to comment on Northern Indiana Public Service Company's (NIPSCO's) pending electric rate case, 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 inviting written consumer comments for the official case record through mid-January. In addition, the IURC will hold public field hearings in the case on Dec. 12, 2022, in Hammond and on Jan. 4, 2023, in Valparaiso.

### **Written Consumer Comments**

OUCC analysts and attorneys are reviewing NIPSCO's testimony and exhibits. The agency is scheduled to complete its review and file testimony on Jan. 20, 2023.

Public comments are invited in writing through Jan. 13, 2023. 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 Jan. 13, 2023**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments 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. 45772**" or "**NIPSCO Electric 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's public field hearings on NIPSCO's request are scheduled for:

- Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, in Hammond: Purdue University Northwest, Student Union and Library Building – Alumni Hall (2233 173rd St.)
- Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2023, in Valparaiso: Valparaiso High School – Auditorium, (2727 North Campbell St.)

Each 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.

The sole purpose of each field hearing is to receive public testimony.

- 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. 13.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, NIPSCO filed testimony and exhibits in September 2022.
- 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.

(Continued)

## Case Overview

NIPSCO's request would raise an average monthly residential electric bill (668 kilowatt hours) from \$107.78 to \$127.21 under a two-phase increase taking effect in September 2023 and March 2024. The bill would then rise to \$133.43 under a new "tracker," or rate adjustment mechanism, that would gradually raise rates beginning in July 2024.

In its testimony, the utility states it is seeking the increase due to numerous infrastructure projects, including the transition from its coal-fired generating fleet to more renewable electricity production.

NIPSCO serves more than 483,000 electric customers in 20 counties. Natural gas rates are not at issue in this case.

Several additional parties have intervened in this case, including the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Walmart, ChargePoint, United States Steel Corporation, NLMK Indiana, additional industrial customers (including Accurate Castings and Kingsbury Castings, BP Products North America, Cargill, Cleveland Cliffs Steel, Enbridge, Linde, Marathon, and USG), and municipal governments (including Schererville and Dyer). Any testimony they file is also due by Jan. 20, 2023.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/nipsco-electric-rates/nipsco-electric-rate-case-20222023/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/nipsco-electric-rates/nipsco-electric-rate-case-20222023/). 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. 45772)

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.

## NIPSCO Electric Rate Case Timeline

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

Jan. 13, 2023

**Public Comment Deadline**

*The OUCC accepts written comments online and by mail.*

Jan. 20, 2023

**OUCC Testimony**

*OUCC attorneys & technical experts will file recommendations.*

Feb. 16, 2023

**Rebuttal Testimony**

*Utility may file testimony in response.*

Mar. 13, 2023

**IURC Evidentiary Hearing Starts**

*Attorneys for the OUCC, utility, & intervenors may cross-examine each other's technical witnesses.*

Spring 2023

**Closing Briefs**

*The OUCC, utility, & intervenors may file closing briefs in the weeks following the evidentiary hearing.*

Summer 2023

**Order**

*The IURC issues a final order after considering all evidence.*