



For Immediate Release

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Pleasantview Utilities Rate Cases: Public Comments Invited

IURC Hearing Dec. 10 in Connersville

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on Pleasantview Utilities' pending water and sewer rate requests through Dec. 11, 2024.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Connersville on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposals. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Dec. 12, 2024.

Pleasantview Utilities, Inc. is a privately owned entity serving a portion of Fayette County.

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 Wednesday Dec. 11, 2024**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in each case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's name, city, zip code, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause Nos. 46122-U and 46123-U**" or "**Pleasantview Utilities.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearing

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing in the pending cases for Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2024, in the James E. Roberts Memorial Building at Roberts Park (9 Park Road, Connersville).

The hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m.** 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 hearing.

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The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision is expected in 2025.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by Dec. 11, 2024.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the cases. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties. OUCC staff will be available to answer questions at the hearing.

Case Overview

Pleasantview's current rates were approved in 2014. According to its filings, the utility is seeking the increases primarily due to higher operating and maintenance costs.

Monthly charges would rise as follows under Pleasantview's proposals:

	Current	Proposed
Residential Sewer Rate (Flat monthly charge)	\$42.27	\$65.76
Average Residential Water Bill (Based on 4,000 gallons)	\$31.20	\$48.88
Total Bill	\$73.47	\$114.64

The utility has filed this case through the IURC's Small Utility Filing Procedure, which is designed to reduce the time and expense involved with regulatory filings for utilities with fewer than 8,000 customers. Savings are gained by allowing utility staff to use standardized forms and forego a technical evidentiary hearing. This is designed to result in utilities needing less assistance from rate consultants or attorneys, leading to fewer expenses to be passed on to customers.

The OUCC uses the same standard to review a utility's operations and records whether it seeks a rate increase through the Small Utility Filing Procedure or a traditional case. Conducting its analysis on behalf of all utility consumers, the OUCC will present the results of its review through a report to the IURC, including formal testimony. The IURC's review is conducted on behalf of the public interest (a balancing of utility and customer interests); it is responsible for resolving any factual disputes that may arise and issuing a final order establishing new rates.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/pleasantview-utilities-rates/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news/.

(IURC Cause Numbers 46122-U and 46123-U)

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.