



For Immediate Release

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Ohio Valley Gas Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited; Public Hearing Set for April 3

If you would like to comment on the rate increase requested by Ohio Valley Gas (OVG), you have two opportunities.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments for the case record. In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing on Monday, April 3, 2017 in Connersville.

The IURC's April 3 hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. in the Connersville High School Auditorium (1100 Spartan Dr., Connersville, Ind.).

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the gas rate case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Comments will carry equal weight whether they are oral or written.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions during the field hearing. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Consumers who are unable to attend the field hearing but wish to submit written comments may do so via the OUCC's Website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail, email, or fax:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- email: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

The OUCC – which represents consumer interests in all cases before the IURC – needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than April 13, 2017 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 "IURC Cause No. 44891." Consumers with questions about submitting written comments may call the OUCC toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(Continued)

Ohio Valley Gas is a privately-owned utility with approximately 28,000 customers in 16 east-central, southern, and western Indiana counties. Its current base rates were approved in 2012. The utility’s testimony cites higher operating and maintenance costs, along with infrastructure improvements including pipeline extensions and replacements, and transmission and distribution facility upgrades.

Combined annual revenues of Ohio Valley Gas Corporation (OVGC) and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc. (OVGI) would rise by approximately \$3.24 million under the request. The flat, monthly customer charge for all residential customers would increase from \$14.50 to \$14.75, with the volumetric portion of the base rate varying by region. The utility’s testimony and exhibits show total residential bills increasing as follows:

Monthly Usage	OVGC: ANR Pipeline Service Area Dubois, Jay, Randolph, Spencer, & Wayne Counties		OVGC: Texas Gas Service Area Dearborn, Fayette, Franklin, Perry, Ripley, Spencer, & Union Counties		OVGI Service Area Greene, Knox, Pike, Sullivan, & Vigo Counties	
	Current Bill	Proposed Bill	Current Bill	Proposed Bill	Current Bill	Proposed Bill
20 therms	\$31.15	\$33.64	\$32.66	\$34.84	\$31.95	\$34.24
50 therms	\$56.13	\$61.97	\$59.89	\$64.97	\$58.12	\$63.47
100 therms	\$97.76	\$109.19	\$105.28	\$115.19	\$101.74	\$112.19

Source: Petitioners’ Exhibits KAH-8-10

The base distribution rate for Ohio Valley Gas comprises about 67 percent of a typical residential customer’s monthly heating bill, and covers operating and maintenance costs along with capital improvements. Wholesale natural gas commodity costs are passed through to rates on a dollar-for-dollar basis and are reviewed and approved in separate legal proceedings.

The OUCC is scheduled to file testimony in this case on April 20, 2017.

Case updates will be posted on the OUCC’s website at www.in.gov/oucc/2693.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 44891)

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.

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