



For Immediate Release

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Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corp. rate case: Consumer comments invited

If you would like to comment on Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation's requested rate increase, here's your chance.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written consumer comments on the utility's rate request through June 22, 2016. The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – anticipates completing its review of the utility's request and filing testimony on June 29, 2016.

Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation – a not-for-profit entity serving more than 3,000 customers in Bartholomew and Brown Counties – is proposing a two-phase increase. The utility's testimony and exhibits cite increases in operating and maintenance costs while describing proposed capital improvements. Projects include new mains and a new 200,000-gallon elevated storage tank in Brown County.

According to its testimony and exhibits, the utility's request would raise the monthly water bill for a residential customer using 5,000 gallons from \$39.36 to \$48.94 when an IURC order is issued, and to \$52.32 in 2018. The utility is also seeking approval to issue up to \$2.23 million in long-term debt. Current rates for Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation were approved in 2008.

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, 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 needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than June 22, 2016 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. 44754**."

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 will be held on a future date to be determined. Updates on this case will be posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2828.htm.

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(IURC Cause No. 44754)

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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