



For Immediate Release

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News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

Tri-Township Water Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments

If you are a Tri-Township Water Corp. customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending rate request, 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 reviewing the utility's request and is scheduled to file testimony on Sept. 14, 2021.

While using its legal and technical resources to analyze the request, including examining the utility's books and operations, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through Sept. 8, 2021.

The utility is requesting a two-phase increase along with authority to issue up to \$5 million in long-term debt. If approved, the request would raise the monthly residential water bill for a customer using 5,000 gallons from \$19.85 to \$24.96 when a Commission order is issued, and eventually to \$29.88. In its filings, the utility states it is seeking the changes to cover higher operating and maintenance costs, and to pay for infrastructure upgrades including a new water tower, tank painting and cleaning, well cleanings and pump maintenance, and additional improvements to its distribution system.

Current water rates for Tri-Township Water Corp. received IURC approval in 1996. The not-for-profit utility provides water to approximately 3,800 customers in Dearborn and Franklin Counties.

The utility is seeking the rate increase 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 review 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. 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.

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

115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South

Indianapolis, IN 46204

(Continued)

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than Sept. 8, 2021, 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45563-U**" or Tri-Township Water. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

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

(IURC Cause No. 45563-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.