



For Immediate Release

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Vectren electric generating plant replacement case: Consumer comments invited

IURC public hearing set for July 11 in Evansville

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) encourages Vectren customers to comment on the utility's proposal to build new electric generating facilities and recover the costs through rates in the future.

Consumers may:

1. Speak at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing on Wednesday, July 11, 2018 in Evansville, and/or
2. Send written comments to the OUCC by the close of business on Friday, August 3, 2018.

The IURC's July 11 public field hearing will start at 6:00 p.m., local time, at the University of Southern Indiana (USI) Performance Center (8600 University Blvd.). Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the regulatory process. During the field hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- 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.

According to its testimony in IURC Cause No. 45052, Vectren is seeking IURC approval to:

- Build, own, and operate a new electric generation facility in Posey County. The utility's proposed 865-megawatt, natural gas-fired plant would replace four of Vectren's five coal-fired generating units, which the utility plans to retire in 2023. Vectren's testimony estimates the proposed plant's construction costs at \$781 million.
- Install new emission control technology at its Culley Unit 3 in Warrick County, which would keep the unit operating beyond 2023 and allow it to comply with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The utility estimates the project's costs at \$95 million.
- Recover the costs of both projects through rates in the future.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC, is using its legal and technical resources to review Vectren's request and is scheduled to file testimony on August 10, 2018. OUCC analysts are primarily focusing on whether the proposal would provide Vectren with the most cost-effective means to: 1) comply with federal environmental rules and 2) meet the long-term electric reliability needs of its customers.

A number of additional parties have formally intervened in this case. They include several of Vectren's industrial customers (Consolidated Grain and Barge, Inc., CountryMark Refining and Logistics, LLC, SABIC Innovative Plastics Mt. Vernon, LLC, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana, Inc.), the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Valley Watch, Inc., Sierra Club Hoosier Chapter, the Indiana Coal Council, Inc., Alliance Coal, LLC, Sunrise Coal, LLC, Evansville Western Railway, Inc., and the St. Joseph Energy Center. Any testimony from intervenors is due on August 10, 2018.

(Continued)

In a separate docket (IURC Cause No. 45086), Vectren is seeking IURC approval to build and operate a 50-megawatt solar generating facility. The OUCC anticipates filing testimony in that case on September 4, 2018.

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 August 3, 2018 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. 45052.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494. Please do not include account numbers or similar information.

Case updates are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2894.htm.

Vectren provides electric service to approximately 145,000 customers in southwestern Indiana. Natural gas rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

(IURC Cause No. 45052)

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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