



115 W. Washington St.  
Suite 1500 South  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
[www.IN.gov/OUCC](http://www.IN.gov/OUCC)

Toll-free 1-888-441-2494  
Voice/TDD (317) 232-2494  
Fax (317) 232-5923  
[UCCINFO@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:UCCINFO@oucc.IN.gov)

## **PUBLIC FIELD HEARING – BASIC FACTS**

**An Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) public field hearing is a formal, legal proceeding.**

- An Administrative Law Judge presides with at least one Commissioner present. A court reporter records testimony.

**The sole purpose of the field hearing is to accept sworn testimony from consumers under oath.**

- Formal parties in IURC cases - including utilities, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) and intervening parties - typically file testimony and exhibits in writing.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions as they will ultimately weigh the evidence and render a decision.
- Staff from the OUCC and IURC are available to answer procedural questions on an individual basis.

**Consumers may make sworn written or oral comments on the pending case.**

- Consumer comments are given equal consideration whether they are written or oral.
- All oral and written consumer comments submitted tonight will be entered into the case's formal record.
- To provide oral or written comments, please complete and submit the form available at the information table.

**Attorneys for the case's formal parties may participate.**

- As this is a legal proceeding, the attorneys are entitled, but not required, to ask questions following your testimony.

**No final decision in the case will be made tonight.**

- The OUCC is accepting written consumer comments through Friday, December 9.

## **GENERAL AGENCY INFORMATION**

### **Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)**

- State agency
- Represents the interests of all Indiana utility consumers – including residential, commercial and industrial customer interests – in cases before the IURC and federal utility regulatory commissions
- Staff of attorneys, accountants, engineers, economists, consumer services and support personnel

### **Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)**

- State agency
- Regulates many, but not all, Indiana utilities. Regulates utility rates, financing, service territory, quality, etc.
- Required by law to make decisions that balance the interests of utilities and consumers

## **Vectren Dense Pack Cost Recovery Case: IURC Cause No. 44067**

**Vectren Energy Delivery** is seeking IURC permission to install new technology at its A.B. Brown Generating Station and to recover the costs through rates. Vectren filed its case in writing in September 2011.

- Vectren intends to install dense pack technology on Units 1 & 2 at the plant, at an estimated cost of \$32 million, to improve operational efficiency and reduce the amount of coal used.
- To pay for the project, Vectren proposes a flat, monthly charge of \$1.08 per residential customer. Commercial customers on Vectren's Small General Service tariff would pay a flat, monthly charge of 57 cents while large commercial and industrial customers would be charged based on usage. These charges would be in addition to the utility's current electric base rates, but may be partially offset in the future through lower coal costs.
- A new law approved by the Indiana General Assembly (Senate Enrolled Act 251, enacted May 6, 2011) expands the statute allowing for immediate cost recovery of emission control technology to include projects that use advanced technology to increase efficiency. A key issue in this case will be determining whether this project meets the requirements of the revised law (Indiana Code 8-1-8.8).
- Natural gas rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

**The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)** is a separate state agency from the IURC and is the statutory representative for the interests of all utility consumers (residential, commercial and industrial) in IURC cases.

- The OUCC is scheduled to file testimony in this case on December 15, 2011. Its technical and legal staff continues to review Vectren's request.
- The OUCC is accepting written consumer comments by mail, fax, e-mail, and through the agency's Website. It will file all consumer comments received by December 9 with the IURC for the case's formal evidentiary record.
- Once filed, the OUCC's testimony will be available online at [www.in.gov/oucc/2668.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2668.htm).

Vectren has until January 6, 2012 to file rebuttal testimony.

An IURC technical evidentiary hearing is scheduled to begin on January 18, 2012 in Indianapolis. While evidentiary hearings are open to the public, participation is typically limited to attorney and Commission questioning of utility and OUCC witnesses who have filed technical testimony in writing.

The case's formal parties will likely submit proposed orders (the equivalent of closing arguments) after the January hearing concludes.

A settlement agreement is possible in any case. All hearing and filing dates are subject to change.

After the IURC deliberates, it issues final orders at its weekly Conferences. Conferences are typically held on Wednesday afternoons with agendas posted 48 hours in advance at [www.in.gov/iurc/2428.htm](http://www.in.gov/iurc/2428.htm).

For case updates, please visit [www.in.gov/oucc/2668.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2668.htm). To review all publicly filed documents in this case, visit [www.in.gov/iurc](http://www.in.gov/iurc) and click the "Electronic Document System" link in the page's upper right portion.