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[State of Indiana](#)

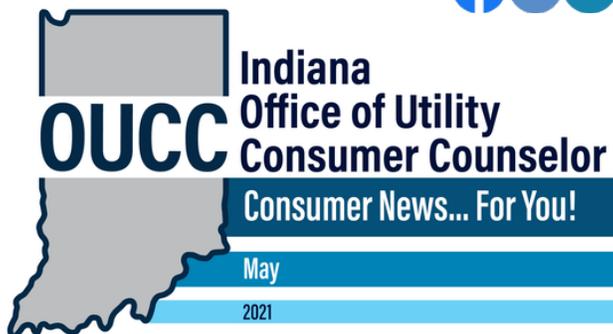
Consumer News... For You! May 2021

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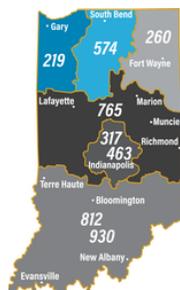
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10-DIGIT TRANSITION UNDERWAY

If your phone number starts with the 219 or 574 area code, you'll need to complete all local calls with 10 digits starting in October. A 6-month [grace period is underway](#) to help with the transition. Between now and Oct. 24, local calls in the 219 and 574 areas can be completed with either 7 or 10 digits.

An FCC order is requiring the dialing changes in parts of 35 states, to allow the three-digit 988 dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to take effect nationwide next year. The 317 and 812 area codes in central and southern Indiana moved to 10-digit dialing a few years ago due to dwindling number supplies.



File Regular Session of the 100th Indiana Assembly (2021)
HOUSE ENROLLED ACT No. 1229
AS ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning utilities.
As enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana
SECTION 1. IC 23-2-41 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS (EFFECTIVE 10/01/2022):
Chapter 483. The CenterPoint Energy Policy Development Task Force.
Section 1. As added to the chapter, "Task Force" refers to the 21st century energy policy development task force established by section 2 of this chapter.
Sec. 2. The 21st century energy policy development task force is established:
Sec. 3. (a) The task force consists of the following seven members: (1) One member of the senate, appointed as follows: (A) From 100 members appointed by the governor and assigned one-third of the total term as a member of the task force. (2) Five (5) members appointed by the minority leader. (3) One (1) member of the house of representatives, appointed as follows: (A) From 100 members appointed by the speaker, one (1) of whom shall serve as co-chair of the task force. (B) From 20 members appointed by the minority leader. (C) The utility consumer counselor appointed under IC 23-2-2.1 as the utility consumer counselor's designee, to

ADDRESSING FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS

Indiana's 21st Century Energy Policy Development Task Force will continue its work for two additional years, under [legislation](#) recently authored by State Rep. Ed Soliday and signed by Gov. Eric J. Holcomb.

Utility Consumer Counselor Bill Fine will continue to serve on the task force as it studies a number of topics in the months ahead. Topics include recovery of stranded utility costs, customer fairness in utility rate structures, distributed energy resources, energy efficiency, storage technology research, and issues affecting low-income communities and communities of color. The task force's recommendations to the Governor and legislators are due by November 2022.

Under [separate legislation](#), an additional task force is being created to examine the state's wastewater needs.

CASE UPDATES

- The OUCC, CenterPoint Energy, and additional parties have reached a settlement agreement in the [Vectren South](#) gas rate case. The settlement is pending before the IURC, which may approve, deny, or modify any agreement it considers.
- The IURC evidentiary hearing in the CenterPoint Energy/[Vectren North](#) gas rate case is scheduled to start on May 24.
- Bloomington's municipal water utility has filed a new [rate case](#). [Consumer comments](#) are invited.
- A [rate settlement](#) between the OUCC and Crawfordsville's municipal electric utility has received IURC approval.
- Closing briefs in the [American Suburban Utilities](#) rate case (Tippicanoe Co.) are due on May 28 and June 25.
- Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) has scheduled a May 20 [virtual workshop](#) on its integrated resource plan.

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Every year, 51,000 home electrical fires in the US trigger \$1.3 billion in property damage, while causing hundreds of fatalities and injuries. Those estimates from Electrical Safety Foundation International ([ESFI](#)) show the importance of finding any hazards and getting them fixed quickly.



OUR MISSION

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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