



For Immediate Release

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Settlement agreement reached among all parties in Aqua Indiana rate case

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), Aqua Indiana, Inc., and the City of Fort Wayne have reached a settlement agreement regarding new sewer rates for the utility's Aboite Wastewater Division in Allen, Huntington, and Whitley Counties.

The agreement has been filed with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) which will consider it during its deliberations. A settlement agreement filed in any IURC case may be approved, denied, or modified in the Commission's final order.

Under the agreement, overall rates for the Aboite Wastewater Division would rise by 23.6 percent. By comparison, Aqua Indiana originally sought a 29.8 percent increase when it initiated this case in March 2016. The OUCC had recommended limiting the overall increase to approximately 15.6 percent in its June 2016 testimony.

"The OUCC is pleased that all formal parties were able to reach an agreement bringing this case to a fair resolution. This agreement will ensure that the utility is able to complete the capital projects that are necessary for the long-term provision of safe, reliable, and environmentally compliant services for its customers," said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor David Stippler.

Aqua's state president, Tom Bruns, said, "Aqua appreciates the review and analysis conducted by the OUCC, and we believe the result of this settlement is good for our existing customers and for the continued growth of our customer base in southwest Allen County. Through the phase-in of the adjusted rate increase, we are confident that customers will continue to have dependable wastewater service at a reasonable cost."

Kumar Menon, Director of Fort Wayne City Utilities, said, "City Utilities is pleased that all parties were able to come to an agreement that lowers Aqua's proposed rate and spreads that rate over two years thereby decreasing the impact of the rates on the average homeowner. The parties were also able to negotiate a requirement that Aqua will conduct a cost of service study in the future to ensure all customers pay fair rates for their individual sewer use."

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The agreement will allow rates to increase in two phases. Residential rates would be set, at the end of the second phase, as follows:

	Current	Per Aqua Indiana Case-In-Chief March 2016	Per OUCC Testimony June 2016	Per Settlement Agreement August 2016
Metered customer (4,000 gallons)	\$42.97	\$55.77	\$50.70	\$53.45
Unmetered customer (flat rate)	\$59.21	\$76.83	\$50.70	\$63.85

An IURC order in this case is expected by the end of 2016.

(IURC Cause No. 44752)

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