



For Immediate Release

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News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747

or aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

Indiana Michigan Power Rate Case: OUCC Invites Consumer Comments *IURC Hearings This Month in South Bend, Muncie, & Fort Wayne*

If you are an Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending rate request, you have the chance to do so over the next several weeks.

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 I&M's request and is scheduled to file testimony on August 20, 2019.

While using its legal and technical resources to review I&M's request, the OUCC is inviting written comments from the utility's residential, commercial, and industrial customers through August 13, 2019.

In addition, the IURC will hold three public field hearings this month in I&M's service territory:

- **Thursday, July 11, 2019 in South Bend:** South Bend Century Center, Recital Hall, 120 S. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
- **Monday, July 15, 2019 in Muncie:** Ball State University, L.A. Pittenger Student Center, Cardinal Hall B, 2000 W. University Ave.
- **Tuesday, July 16, 2019 in Fort Wayne:** Purdue University Fort Wayne, Walb Union Classic Ballroom, 2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.

Each IURC public field hearing will start at 6:00 p.m. Consumers are encouraged to arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process.

At each IURC field hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and on the record, regarding the rate case.
- Written consumer comments are also invited for the case record.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

I&M provides electric service to approximately 468,000 customers in 24 Indiana counties. Its pending request would raise rates in three phases, with increases taking effect: 1) when a Commission order is issued, 2) on May 31, 2020, and 3) on Jan. 1, 2021.

If approved, I&M's proposal would increase its annual operating revenues by \$172 million – an increase of approximately 11.75 percent – when fully phased in.

According to I&M's testimony and exhibits, its request would raise a monthly residential electric bill for 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) from \$141.91 to \$163.02 if and when the proposed increase is fully implemented.

- Under the utility's request, the monthly residential customer service charge would rise from \$10.50 to \$15.00. The monthly service charge for most small commercial customers would remain unchanged at \$19.00.
- The "energy charge," or the part of the base rate that varies by usage, would also rise.

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- I&M’s testimony and exhibits state that it is seeking the new rates due to increases in operating and maintenance costs, the expiration of municipal utility wholesale contracts in 2020, and to pay for numerous capital improvements. The utility’s request includes the deployment of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) throughout its Indiana service territory, plug-in electric vehicle incentives, higher costs for coal emissions technology at I&M’s Rockport Generating Station, federal compliance and decommissioning costs at I&M’s D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant, tree trimming and vegetation management costs, and additional improvements throughout I&M’s Indiana distribution system including substation upgrades, line rebuilds, pole replacements, and additional grid technology.
- I&M’s current electric base rates received IURC approval in May 2018. However, billing amounts have changed since then due to rate recovery mechanisms – or “trackers” – which allow rate increases or decreases for specific items on an expedited basis.
 - Trackers are separate from base rates and are subject to OUCC review and IURC approval.
 - All Indiana investor-owned electric utilities use trackers to varying degrees.
 - I&M uses trackers to recover costs for generating fuel, energy efficiency programs, environmental mandates, regional transmission, off-system sales, and nuclear life cycle management.

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:

Consumer Services Staff
 Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
 115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
 Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than August 13, 2019 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. 45235**.” Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC’s consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Several additional parties have intervened in this case. They include the Kroger Co., the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, the City of Fort Wayne, Marion Municipal Utilities, Wabash Valley Power Association, Walmart, and the following industrial customers: Air Products, General Motors, I/N Tek, Messer, Praxair, and Steel Dynamics. Any testimony from intervenors is due on August 20, 2019.

A final order in the case is expected in March 2020. The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/2926.htm.

(IURC Cause No. 45235)

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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