



Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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## Michigan City municipal water rate case: Consumer comments invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting written comments on the Michigan City municipal water utility's request for a rate increase.

The OUCC, the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), is reviewing the utility's request and has not yet taken a position in this case. The OUCC anticipates completing its review and filing testimony with the Commission on January 21, 2015.

Michigan City's current water rates were approved in 2004. The city's request would raise monthly water charges for a residential customer using 700 cubic feet (approx. 5,200 gallons) per month from \$21.56 to \$28.29, including the fire protection charge. Michigan City is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$8.6 million in long-term debt in this case.

According to its testimony and exhibits, Michigan City is seeking the changes for several reasons including higher operating and maintenance costs, as well as proposed capital improvements. Projects identified in the city's filings include treatment plant improvements along with main extensions and replacements.

More information on this case, including the utility's testimony, is available online at [www.in.gov/oucc/2787.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2787.htm).

Consumers who wish to submit written comments in this case may do so via the OUCC's Website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), or by mail, email, or fax:

- **Mail:** Consumer Services Staff  
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Written comments the OUCC receives by January 15, 2015 will be filed with the Commission and included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's **name, mailing address**, and a reference to "**IURC Cause No. 44538.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

(Continued)

A public field hearing in Michigan City will be scheduled at a future date and time to be determined.

Only the city's water rates are at issue in this case. Indiana law does not give the IURC jurisdiction over the city's sewer utility.

(IURC Cause No. 44538)

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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