



For Immediate Release

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Indiana American Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited ***IURC Hearings Scheduled in Fishers and Gary***

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) continues to invite public comments on Indiana American Water Company's (INAWC's) pending rate request.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold public field hearings in the case on June 29, 2023, in Fishers and July 6, 2023, in Gary.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review INAWC's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due July 21, 2023.

Written Consumer Comments

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:

Public Comments
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Friday, July 14, 2023**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45870**" or **Indiana American Water Rates**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearings

The IURC's public field hearings on the utility's request are scheduled for:

- Thursday, **June 29, 2023**, in **Fishers**: Hamilton County Public Library East – Fishers Branch in Center Meeting Room – F179 (5 Municipal Drive).
- Thursday, **July 6, 2023**, in **Gary**: Gary Public Library and Cultural Center – Roma K. Ivey Community Room (220 W. 5th Avenue).

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Each hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m. local time**. Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearings.

The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. No final decisions will be made at the hearings.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearings will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by July 14, 2023.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, INAWC filed testimony and exhibits in March 2023.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties.

Case Overview

INAWC's proposal would raise water rates in three phases, increasing its total annual operating revenues by \$86.7 million (or 31% over current revenues), according to its testimony filed in March 2023.

Under the utility's request, increases would take effect in January 2024, April 2024, and April 2025. Specific billing impacts would vary by service area.

The utility's proposal would also raise sewer rates for its 2,800 wastewater customers in Somerset, Sheridan, and Riley, and in portions of Delaware and Clark Counties.

INAWC, which provides service to approximately 328,000 customers in more than 50 Indiana communities, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Camden, New Jersey-based American Water Inc. In its testimony and exhibits, INAWC attributes the requested rate increase to numerous infrastructure investments.

Capital projects include the replacement of aging infrastructure throughout INAWC's service territories, main replacements and relocations, new meters and hydrants, proposed new treatment plants in Winchester and Sheridan, a new storage tank in West Lafayette, chlorine conversion for its Northwest Indiana and Shelbyville operations, customer lead service line replacements, security measures, and additional projects. The utility's request also includes the recent costs of acquiring smaller utilities throughout Indiana.

Indiana American Water Rate Case Timeline

All dates are subject to change. A settlement is possible in any legal proceeding.

Jul. 14, 2023

Public Comment Deadline

The OUCC accepts written comments online and by mail.

Jul. 21, 2023

OUCC Testimony

OUCC attorneys & technical experts will file recommendations.

Aug. 8, 2023

Rebuttal Testimony

Utility may file testimony in response.

Aug. 31, 2023

IURC Evidentiary Hearing Starts

Attorneys for the OUCC, utility, & intervenors may cross-examine each other's technical witnesses.

Sept./Oct. 2023

Closing Briefs

The OUCC, utility, & intervenors may file closing briefs in the weeks following the evidentiary hearing.

Early 2024

Order

The IURC issues a final order after considering all evidence.

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Current base rates for INAWC received IURC approval in 2019. However, rates have increased since then through the utility's Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) and Service Enhancement Improvement Rider (SEI). These rate tracking mechanisms allow for rate recovery of certain infrastructure projects between rate cases subject to OUCC review and IURC approval. The tracker increases were approved in March 2021, March 2022, February 2023, and March 2023.

INAWC's request includes a proposal to create a new low-income assistance program which would be ratepayer-funded and would provide discounts for qualifying customers. The utility also proposes to include each residential customer's first 1,500 gallons within the monthly customer service charge, before monthly volumetric rates take effect.

Several additional parties have intervened in this case, including municipal governments (Crown Point, Schererville, and Whiteland), Sullivan-Vigo Rural Water Corp., the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, wholesale customers (including Borden Tri-County Regional Water District, Jackson County Water Utility, Inc, and the Town of Greenville), and industrial customers (including Cleveland Cliffs Steel, General Motors, Haynes International, Linde, and United States Steel Corporation). Any testimony they file is due by Jul. 21, 2023.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. If an agreement is reached, the settling parties are required to present evidence showing it to be in the public interest. The IURC may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/indiana-american-water-co-rates/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news.

(IURC Cause No. 45870)

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.