



**For Immediate Release**

**Jan. 29, 2024**

News Media Contact:

Olivia Rivera, (317) 232-3394 or

[orivera@oucc.in.gov](mailto:orivera@oucc.in.gov)

## **CenterPoint Energy Electric Rates: Public Comments Invited**

### ***IURC Hearing Scheduled for Feb. 29 in Evansville***

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on CenterPoint Energy's pending electric rate request through Mar. 5, 2024.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Evansville in late February.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review CenterPoint Energy's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Mar. 12, 2024.

#### **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](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto: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 Mar. 5, 2024**, 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, city, & zip code**, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 45990**" or **CenterPoint Energy**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

#### **Public Field Hearing**

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing in this case for Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024, at the Old National Events Plaza (715 Locust Street, Evansville) in the Locust Room.

The hearing will include 2 sessions: an afternoon session beginning at **2:00 p.m. local time**, and an evening session beginning at **6:00 p.m. local time**. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearing.

The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision in this case is expected in the fall of 2024.

- 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 Mar. 5, 2024.

**(Continued)**

- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, the utility filed testimony and exhibits in December 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.
- OUCC staff will be available before and during the hearing to answer questions.

The OUCC's informational video offers an overview at <https://youtu.be/efivbMBUWg>

## Case Overview

CenterPoint Energy's electric utility is seeking a three-phase, \$118.8 million increase in its annual operating revenues.<sup>1</sup> According to its filing, the utility is seeking the increase due to infrastructure improvements and higher operating and maintenance costs.

The utility's testimony and exhibits show that its request would increase a monthly residential bill for 750 kilowatt hours (kWh) from \$161.20 to \$195.85 once the increase is fully phased in. A residential electric bill for 1,000 kWh would rise from \$207.20 to \$253.40 under the utility's request.<sup>2</sup>

Natural gas rates and charges are not at issue in this case.

CenterPoint Energy provides electric service to approximately 150,000 customers across 7 southwestern Indiana counties. Its current electric base rates received IURC approval in April 2011. However, billing amounts have since changed through tracker adjustments, which allow utilities to raise or reduce rates for specific costs subject to OUCC review and IURC approval. All major Indiana electric utilities use trackers to varying degrees. CenterPoint Energy uses them to recover costs for transmission and distribution infrastructure improvements, fuel and purchased power, regional transmission, compliance with federal environmental rules, and energy efficiency programs.

A final Commission order is expected in fall 2024.

Additional parties that have intervened in this case include the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, SABIC Innovative Plastics, and industrial customers including Consolidated Grain and Barge, CountryMark Refining and Logistics, Marathon Petroleum Company, and Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Indiana.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-energy-electric-rate-case/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/vectren-electric-rates/centerpoint-energy-electric-rate-case/). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/news](http://www.in.gov/oucc/news).

(IURC Cause No. 45990)

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.

<sup>1</sup> IURC Cause No. 45990, Petition, Page 12.

<sup>2</sup> IURC Cause No. 45990, Petitioner's Exhibit No. 21, Page 148 of 157.

## CenterPoint Energy Electric Rate Case Timeline

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

