



Indiana Office of Utility  
Consumer Counselor

**For Immediate Release**

**June 19, 2020**

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## **RP&L Rate Case: Consumer Comments Invited**

### ***Change of Location for IURC Public Hearing on June 29***

If you are a Richmond Power & Light (RP&L) customer and would like to comment on the utility's pending rate request, you have the chance to do so.

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 RP&L's request and is scheduled to file testimony on July 2, 2020.

**The OUCC continues to invite written consumer comments for the case record. In addition, the IURC's June 29, 2020 public field hearing in this case – originally scheduled at Richmond High School – will be held in the Chambers Room at the Richmond Municipal Building, at 50 North 5<sup>th</sup> St. The hearing starts at 6:00 p.m.**

### **Written consumer comments**

In addition to using its legal and technical resources to review RP&L's request, the OUCC is inviting written comments from customers through June 30, 2020.

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:

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 June 30, 2020 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 either "**IURC Cause No. 45361**" or RP&L. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

The OUCC's guide at [www.in.gov/oucc/files/Speaking%20Out.pdf](http://www.in.gov/oucc/files/Speaking%20Out.pdf) offers more information on consumer comments.

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## Public field hearing

The IURC's public field hearing on RP&L's request is now scheduled for June 29, 2020 at the Richmond Common Council Chambers (50 North 5<sup>th</sup> St.). The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. and is statutorily required in this case. Its sole purpose will be to receive public testimony.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments during the hearing will become part of the case record, along with written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, RP&L filed testimony and exhibits in March 2020.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility and the OUCC.
- OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Consumers attending the field hearing are encouraged to arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. for an overview of hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are encouraged to wear masks and practice social distancing. More details on safety protocols in accordance with CDC guidelines will be released prior to the hearing.

## Case overview

RP&L's current base rates were approved in 2005 and rank second lowest among the electric utilities the IURC regulates.

RP&L proposes to implement its requested increase in three annual phases. According to its testimony, the utility's proposal would raise a monthly residential bill for a customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) from \$102.77 to \$108.35 in 2021, \$113.06 in 2022, and to \$118.05 in 2023. The utility's flat, monthly residential customer facilities charge would rise from \$10.00 to \$11.75 in 2021, \$13.75 in 2022, and \$15.75 in 2023.

In testimony, RP&L cites increases in operating and maintenance costs along with the need to address aging infrastructure and a seven-year plan for capital improvements as reasons for seeking a rate increase. Planned distribution system improvements include street lighting upgrades, new meters, line extensions, substation upgrades, and additional projects. Ash pond remediation costs are also among the case's components.

A final Commission order is currently expected in January 2021. RP&L's case-in-chief is available at [www.in.gov/oucc/2755.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2755.htm). The OUCC is posting case updates on that page and on its social media pages.

(IURC Cause No. 45361)

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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