

For Immediate Release October 11, 2018 News Media Contact: Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

## Settlement agreement reached on Vectren solar facility

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC), Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, and Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana have reached a settlement agreement on the utility's proposal to build and operate a 50-megawatt solar generation facility in Spencer County.

The agreement was filed this week with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), which may approve, modify, or deny any settlement before it.

Under the agreement's terms, Vectren would build the facility and recover project costs at a lower rate than it originally proposed. Specifically, the agreement would set the rate at a levelized cost of \$0.05452 per kilowatt hour (kWh), which is much closer to current market prices for solar power than the rate in Vectren's original proposal.

The agreement would also offer protection from potential increases in construction, operating, and maintenance costs, capping the capital costs Vectren can recover through future rates. In addition, Vectren would seek the OUCC's agreement before selling any renewable energy credits on the wholesale market, and would then pass the benefits through to customers through rate credits.

"This agreement properly addresses concerns the OUCC previously raised about the facility's costs and operations under Vectren's original plan," said Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor Bill Fine. "We are confident that the settlement's terms will allow the solar project to proceed in a way that includes appropriate consumer protections and long-term benefits."

An IURC settlement hearing will be held on a date to be determined in Indianapolis.

(IURC Cause No. 45086)

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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