Consumer News... For You! April 2024

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor Consumer News... For You!

Ohio Valley Gas Rates

The OUCC is inviting consumer comments in the pending Ohio Valley Gas (OVG) rate case.

April 2024

OVG is seeking a two-step \$12 million (35%) increase in its annual operating revenues. According to its filing, the utility is seeking the increase due to infrastructure improvements and higher operating and maintenance costs. OVG provides natural gas service in portions of southern and east-central Indiana.

An IURC public field hearing is scheduled for Apr. 18 in Connersville. The OUCC is inviting written consumer comments through May 8. OUCC testimony is due May 15.

NIPSCO Gas

The OUCC and additional consumer parties have reached a settlement agreement that if approved, would reduce <u>NIPSCO's natural gas</u> rate request by \$41 million.

The agreement sets the monthly residential customer service charge at \$16.50, the level where it was before the recent repeal of the state Utility Receipts Tax. The monthly customer service charge for small businesses will receive the same treatment and be set at \$67.00. The residential and small business charges, respectively, would have risen to \$25.50 and \$96.00 under the utility's request.

All of the case's formal parties have either signed on to the settlement or agreed to not oppose it. The Commission may approve, deny, or change any settlement agreement it considers. A final order in this case is expected this summer.

Additional Cases

Energy

- <u>CenterPoint Energy</u> is scheduled to file rebuttal testimony in its pending electric rate case on Apr. 9. The IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start Apr. 30 with an order expected later this year.
- AES Indiana has filed a proposal to repower its <u>Petersburg Generating Station</u> (Units 3 & 4) from coal to natural gas and to recover costs through future rates. The OUCC is reviewing the request and expects to file testimony on Jun. 5.
- The OUCC's testimony deadline in the <u>Boonville Natural Gas</u> rate case has been extended to May 3.

Water/Wastewater

- OUCC testimony on Evansville municipal water's financing request is due May 2.
- The OUCC anticipates filing testimony in the <u>American Suburban Utilities</u> (ASU) financing case on May 23.

 <u>Citizens Water of Westfield</u> is requesting a \$3 million (21.62%) rate increase in Cause No. 46020. The OUCC expects to file testimony on Jun. 21. <u>Written public comments</u> are invited through Jun. 14.

Safe Digging Month

Did you know that something as simple as planting a tree or bush can damage underground utility lines? April is <u>Safe Digging Month</u> across the United States, an important annual reminder as the weather starts to warm up to dig safely regardless of your yard project.

Contact Indiana 811 at least two business days before digging. There is no charge to have your lines marked and the 8-1-1 call center is open around the clock, seven days a week. You can also complete the form at <u>Indiana811.org</u>. Markings are effective for 20 days.



To represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, & creative problem solving.

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