



For Immediate Release

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Chandler Municipal Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on the Town of Chandler's pending water rate request through Dec. 13, 2024.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Dec. 20, 2024.

Chandler's current water rates were approved in 2019. According to its testimony, the utility is seeking the rate increase and authority to seek up to about \$15 million in long-term debt due to higher operating and maintenance costs, along with capital improvements. Infrastructure projects in this case are intended to accommodate expected customer growth over the next ten years and include main extensions and a new 1.5-million-gallon water tower.

The utility is proposing a three-phase increase that would be fully implemented by 2027. Under the town's pending proposal, monthly water charges for a residential customer using 4,000 gallons would rise as follows:

| Current | Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| \$34.10 | \$39.34 | \$45.40 | \$52.39 |

Calculation includes fire protection fee.

Only the town's water rates are at issue in this case. The IURC does not have jurisdiction over municipal sewer rates, which are set by locally elected town and town councils throughout the state.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the form on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail at:

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

Consumer comments will be included in the formal case record for Commission review. Comments **should not** contain sensitive or personal information as comments will become viewable and searchable online once posted to the IURC's online case file. Consumers with questions about commenting can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff at 1-888-441-2494.

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The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2024**, 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, town, zip code, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 46124**" or "**Chandler Water.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

An IURC evidentiary hearing is scheduled to start on Feb. 12, 2025. While open to the public, participation in evidentiary hearings is limited to attorney and Commission questioning of technical witnesses for the case's formal parties. Hearings requiring cross-examination are live-streamed at www.in.gov/iurc/watch-the-iurc-live/.

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

(IURC Cause No. 46124)

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.