



For Immediate Release

January 22, 2018

News Media Contact:

Anthony Swinger, (317) 233-2747 or

aswinger@oucc.IN.gov

Lafayette Municipal Water rate case: Consumer comments invited

February 7 IURC public hearing scheduled in Lafayette

If you would like to comment on the City of Lafayette's proposed water rate increase, you have the opportunity 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 conducting a legal and technical review of the city's request and is scheduled to file testimony on February 15, 2018.

Consumers can comment for the case record by:

1. Speaking at the IURC's February 7, 2018 public field hearing in Lafayette, or
2. Sending written comments to the OUCC by the close of business on February 8, 2018.

The February 7 IURC field hearing is scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m. at Jefferson High School (1801 S. 18th St.), in the Rohrman Performing Arts Center. Consumers are encouraged to arrive no later than 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process.

At the hearing:

- Consumers will be able to speak directly to the Commission, under oath and for the record, regarding the rate case.
- Consumers will also be able to submit written comments for the case record.
- Comments will carry equal weight whether they are oral or written.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions during the field hearing. However, OUCC staff will be available before, during, and after the hearing to address questions about the process.

Lafayette's pending request would raise water rates in two phases. Monthly water charges for an in-city residential customer using 5,000 gallons would rise from \$12.13 to \$16.51 when a Commission order is issued, and to \$18.31 when the Phase Two rates take effect. Current rates for Lafayette's municipal water utility received IURC approval in 2001, with the city's fire protection charge approved in 2007.

Lafayette is also seeking IURC approval to issue up to \$19.8 million in long-term debt. According to its testimony and exhibits, the city is seeking the changes due to increases in operating and maintenance costs and to fund a number of proposed capital improvements. Projects cited in Lafayette's exhibits include water main, hydrant, and valve replacements, well field rehabilitation, and treatment plant improvements, along with a new water tank, new booster station, and new ground storage reservoir.

(Continued)

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, or by mail, email or fax:

- Mail: Consumer Services Staff
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 South
Indianapolis, IN 46204
- email: uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov
- Fax: (317) 232-5923

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments no later than February 8, 2018 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 "**IURC Cause No. 45006**." Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Case updates are being posted on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2785.htm.

Only Lafayette's water rates are at issue in this case. State law restricts the IURC's oversight of municipal water utilities to their rates, charges, and finances.

Indiana law does not give the IURC jurisdiction over municipal sewer utilities, leaving oversight of municipal sewer rates to locally elected city and town councils.

(IURC Cause No. 45006)

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.

Visit us at www.IN.gov/OUCC, www.twitter.com/IndianaOUCC, or www.facebook.com/IndianaOUCC.

Sign up for our newsletter at www.IN.gov/OUCC/2356.htm.