

NEWS RELEASE

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (IURC)

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Nearly \$900,000 in Fines Approved for Vectren 2019 Pipeline Safety Violations

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (Commission) issued an Order today in Cause No. 45094 S3 approving \$894,000 in civil penalties to be paid by Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company and Indiana Gas Company (Vectren or CenterPoint Energy Indiana) for pipeline safety violations occurring in 2019.

These violations are related to Vectren’s failure to locate or mark its pipelines in two days as required by its pipeline safety procedures, which include accurately marking those facilities and contacting the excavator within those two working days. Vectren’s penalties were mitigated due to the utility’s top quartile performance in the American Gas Association marking and locating annual report, stemming from terms in a Settlement Agreement approved by the Commission in October 2018.

Under the Settlement agreement between Vectren and the Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division, approved in Cause No. 45094, Vectren paid \$736,000 for violations that occurred in 2017 and agreed to pay additional civil penalties for violations it may commit going forward. Both the Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division and the utility agreed on the dollar amount for each violation Vectren commits in 2018 and 2019 with respect to locating its underground gas pipelines and facilities. In Cause No. 45094 S1, which was approved by the Commission in March 2020, the Commission clarified how the civil penalties would be calculated for damages going forward. In Cause No. 45094 S2, which was approved by the Commission in April 2020, Vectren was directed to pay \$584,000 for violations occurring in 2018.

All funds collected from approved civil penalties will go directly to the state’s General Fund. The Order states that, “Consistent with the Settlement Agreement, none of this penalty shall be recovered from Vectren’s customers.”

The Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division has jurisdiction over intrastate pipelines operated and maintained by utilities such as Vectren. It is the Division’s charge to ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal pipeline safety regulations. If a violation is identified, the Pipeline Safety Division investigates the matter and may request penalties. Properly responding to and locating pipelines is critical to avoiding property damage and personal injury potentially resulting from natural gas explosions.

To review the Commission's Order in Cause No. 45094 S3, as well as all related documents in this case, please visit the Online Services Portal [here](#) and search by the Cause Number.

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The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (Commission) is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the Commission is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide safe and reliable service at just and reasonable rates. The Commission also serves as a resource to the legislature, executive branch, state agencies, and the public by providing information regarding Indiana's utilities and the regulatory process. In addition, Commission members and staff are actively involved with regional, national, and federal organizations regarding utilities issues affecting Indiana. For more information, please visit www.in.gov/iurc.