ORIGINAL

Commissioner	Yes	No	Not Participating
Swinger			√
Bain	√		
Deig	√		
Jerrells	√		
Ziegner	√		

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

VERIFIED PETITION OF SOUTHERN INDIANA GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY INDIANA SOUTH ("CEI SOUTH") FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN ITS GAS COST ADJUSTMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH I.C. 8-1-2-42(g) AND 8-1-2-42.3	**CAUSE NO. 37366 GCA 172** **APPROVED: OCT 28 2026**

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Presiding Officer:
Loraine L. Seyfried, Chief Administrative Law Judge

On September 1, 2026, Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Indiana South ("CEI South" or "Petitioner") filed with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") a Petition for Gas Cost Adjustment ("GCA"), with attached schedules, to be applicable during the months of November 2026 through January 2027. CEI South also pre-filed the verified testimony and exhibits of J. Waylon Ramming, Manager, Regulatory and Rates; Paula J. Grizzle, Director of Gas Supply; and Marisa J. Johnson, Manager, Regulatory Reporting, supporting the proposed GCA factors. On September 21, 2026, CEI South filed revised schedules. On September 28, 2026, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") filed the direct testimony of Sara F. Marichal, Utility Analyst at the OUCC's Natural Gas Division.

An evidentiary hearing was held on October 14, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in Room 222 of the PNC Center, 101 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. CEI South and the OUCC participated, by counsel, in the hearing. At the hearing, the testimony and exhibits of CEI South and the OUCC were admitted into the record without objection.

Based upon the applicable law and the evidence of record, the Commission finds:

1. Notice and Jurisdiction. Notice of the hearing in this Cause was given and published by the Commission as required by law. CEI South is a public utility as defined in Ind. Code § 8-1-2-1(a). Under Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g), the Commission has jurisdiction over changes to CEI South's rates and charges related to adjustments in gas costs. Therefore, the Commission has jurisdiction over CEI South and the subject matter of this Cause.

2. CEI South's Characteristics. CEI South is a corporation organized and existing under Indiana law. CEI South's principal office is located at 211 NW Riverside Drive, Evansville, Indiana. CEI South renders natural gas utility service to the public in Indiana and owns, operates, manages, and controls plant and equipment used for the distribution and furnishing of such services.

3. Source of Natural Gas. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(A) requires CEI South to make every reasonable effort to acquire long-term natural gas supplies to provide gas to its retail customers at the lowest cost reasonably possible.

Ms. Grizzle testified that some of CEI South's gas purchases are made in advance of the heating season, pursuant to its Advance Purchase Plan. She also described CEI South's financial hedging plan and provided details regarding the financial hedges and associated premiums to date for this GCA quarter. CEI South relies on certain contracts for the provision of firm interstate supply services to its city gate in providing firm supply to customers. Ms. Grizzle testified about CEI South's firm transportation services utilized on pipeline systems.

According to Ms. Grizzle, following a competitive request for proposals, CEI South entered into a long-term, fixed price purchase transaction for the term of December 2026 through October 2029 for a volume of 90,000 dekatherms ("Dth") per month. She also stated that CEI South conducted a competitive request for proposals for a fixed-price commodity swap to address the long-term transaction that expired on March 31, 2026. The volumes of the deal are 50,000 Dth per month for the term of April 2026 through March 2027, which is identical to the volume of the expiring hedge. The transaction fits within the standard CEI South hedging program given the one-year term of the agreement. Both transactions will be shown as separate line items in Schedule 3 for each month for the term of the transactions and will be shown as separate line items in the Schedule 8 supplement for each month of the reconciliation quarter for the term of the transactions.

The Commission has indicated that Indiana's gas utilities should make reasonable efforts to mitigate gas price volatility. This includes a program that considers market conditions and the price of natural gas on both current and forward-looking bases. Based on the evidence of record, we find that CEI South has demonstrated that it has followed and continues to follow a policy of securing natural gas supply at the lowest cost reasonably possible to meet anticipated customer requirements. Therefore, we find that the Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(A) requirement has been fulfilled.

4. Purchased Gas Cost Rates. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(B) requires that CEI South's pipeline suppliers have requested or filed, pursuant to the jurisdiction and procedures of a duly constituted regulatory authority, the costs proposed to be included in the GCA factors. The evidence of record indicates that the proposed gas costs include transport rates that have been filed by CEI South's pipeline suppliers in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission procedures. We have reviewed the cost of gas included in the proposed gas cost adjustment charge and find the cost to be reasonable. Therefore, we find that the requirement of this statutory provision has been fulfilled.

5. Earnings Test. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(C), in effect, prohibits approval of a GCA factor that results in CEI South earning a return in excess of that authorized by the last Commission Order in which CEI South's basic rates and charges were approved. CEI South's current basic rates and charges were approved on October 6, 2021, in Cause No. 45447. The Commission authorized CEI South to earn a net operating income ("NOI") of $27,174,087. The Commission's Order in Cause No. 45612, including subdockets, authorized a prorated increase of $9,237,486 to the authorized NOI for the GCA Earnings Test based on the schedules provided in said proceedings. Therefore, CEI South's prorated authorized NOI for this GCA proceeding is $36,411,573.

CEI South's evidence indicates that, for the 12 months ending June 30, 2026, CEI South's actual net operating income was $35,462,855. Therefore, based on the evidence of record, the Commission finds that CEI South is not earning in excess of its authorized NOI for this GCA proceeding.

Pursuant to the Commission's Orders in Cause Nos. 42943 and 43046, CEI South conducted a return on equity ("ROE") earnings test. As a result of the earnings test, CEI South's ROE was 6.77%, which is below the 9.70% ROE authorized in CEI South's last rate case. The Commission finds CEI South complied with the requirement for submission of the ROE calculation.

6. Estimation of Purchased Gas Costs. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(D) requires that CEI South's estimate of its prospective average gas costs for each future recovery period be reasonable. The Commission has determined that a comparison of the variance to the incremental cost of gas on Schedule 6 be used to determine if the prior estimates are reasonable when compared to the corresponding actual costs. A 12-month rolling average comparison helps to eliminate the inherent variance related to cycle billing and seasonal fluctuations. The evidence of record indicates that CEI South's 12-month rolling average comparison was positive 6.78% for the period ending May 31, 2026. Based on CEI South's historical accuracy in estimating the cost of gas and the testimony offered in this proceeding, we find that CEI South's estimating techniques are sound, and CEI South's prospective average estimate of gas costs is reasonable.

7. Reconciliations. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(D) also requires that CEI South reconcile its estimate for a previous recovery period with the actual purchased gas cost for that period. The evidence presented in this proceeding establishes that the total demand variance for the months of March, April, and May 2026 ("Reconciliation Period") is an under-collection in the amount of $884,652 from its customers.

This amount is to be included, based on estimated sales percentages, in this GCA and the next three GCAs. The amount of the Reconciliation Period demand variance to be included in this GCA as an increase in the estimated net cost of gas is $425,765. The demand variance from prior periods totals an under-collection of $340,466. The total demand variance to be recovered in this GCA is an under-collection of $766,231 to be applied to this GCA as an increase in the estimated net cost of gas.

The total commodity and bad debt variance for the Reconciliation Period is an over-collection in the amount of $7,194. The amount to be included in this GCA as a decrease in the estimated net cost of gas is $3,463. The commodity and bad debt variance from prior periods total an over-collection of $349,250. The total commodity and bad debt variance to be recovered in this GCA is an over-collection of $352,713 which results in a decrease in the estimated net cost of gas.

8. Resulting Gas Cost Adjustment Factors. The estimated net commodity cost of gas to be recovered is $17,330,563 Adjusting this total for the demand costs, variances, bad debt costs, and refund amounts yields gas costs to be recovered through the GCA of $19,846,062. After dividing that amount by estimated sales, CEI South's recommended GCA factors—applicable only to Rate Schedules 110 and 120—are $3.577/Dth for November 2026, $3.696/Dth for December 2026, and $3.994/Dth for January 2027.

9. Effects on Residential Customers. As illustrated in the table below, a residential customer would incur the following commodity costs based on 10 Dth of usage. Moreover, the table also compares the proposed gas costs to what a residential customer paid most recently (September 2026 – $4.526/Dth) and a year ago (November 2025 – $4.414/Dth, December 2025 – $4.614/Dth, and January 2026 – $4.831/Dth). The table solely reflects costs that are approved through the GCA process. It does not include CEI South's base rates or any applicable rate adjustment mechanisms.

		Current		Year Ago	
Month	Proposed Gas Costs (10 Dth)	Gas Costs (10 Dth)	Difference from Current	Gas Costs (10 Dth)	Difference from Year Ago
November 2026	$35.77	$45.26	$(9.49)	$44.14	$(8.37)
December 2026	$36.96	$45.26	$(8.30)	$46.14	$(9.18)
January 2027	$39.94	$45.26	$(5.32)	$48.31	$(8.37)

10. Interim Rates. We are unable to determine whether CEI South will earn an excess return while these GCA factors are in effect. Accordingly, the rates approved in this order are interim rates subject to refund pending reconciliation in the event an excess return is earned.

11. Monthly Flex Mechanism. The Commission has indicated in prior orders that Indiana's gas utilities should make reasonable efforts to mitigate gas price volatility. The monthly flex mechanism is designed to address this concern. Petitioner has elected to utilize a monthly flex mechanism to adjust its GCA factor up to the cap of $2.00 on the total GCA factor monthly. Since Petitioner is utilizing a monthly flex mechanism, Petitioner must file a monthly flex tariff in the applicable GCA proceeding, including a notification of not flexing as warranted. The flex mechanism is to be filed no later than three business days before the beginning of each calendar month during the GCA period.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:

1. The Petition of Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Indiana South for the gas cost adjustment for natural gas service, as set forth in Paragraph No. 8, is approved, subject to refund in accordance with Paragraph No. 10. Such gas cost adjustment charges shall remain in effect until replaced by different gas cost adjustment factors that are approved in a subsequent filing.

2. Petitioner shall file a monthly flex tariff under this Cause for approval by the Commission's Energy Division. Such rates shall be effective on or after the order date subject to Division review and agreement with the amounts reflected.

3. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

BAIN, DEIG, JERRELLS, AND ZIEGNER CONCUR; SWINGER ABSENT:

APPROVED: OCT 28 2026

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Order as approved.

Regina K Joyner

Digitally signed by Regina K Joyner
Date: 2026.10.28 10:46:19 -04'00'

on behalf of

Dana Kosco
Secretary of the Commission