ORIGINAL

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

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANA NATURAL GAS CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF CHANGES IN ITS GAS RATES THROUGH A GAS COST ADJUSTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH IND. CODE 8-1-2-42(g)	)))))	**CAUSE NO. 37418 GCA 171** **APPROVED: OCT 28 2026**

ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Presiding Officer:
Jon D. Williams, Administrative Law Judge

On August 25, 2026, Indiana Natural Gas Corporation ("Petitioner") filed its Petition for Gas Cost Adjustment ("GCA") with attached schedules to be applicable during the months of November, December 2026, and January 2027. In support of its petition, Petitioner also filed the direct testimony of Cody M. Osmon, Accountant for Petitioner. On September 8, 2026, Petitioner filed its Updated Schedules.

On September 23, 2026, the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") filed the testimony of Sara F. Marichal, Utility Analyst, in the Natural Gas Division.

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") held an Evidentiary Hearing in this Cause on October 13, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 222 of the PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. Petitioner and the OUCC appeared and participated at the hearing at which the testimony and exhibits of Petitioner and the OUCC were admitted into the record without objection.

Based upon the applicable law and the evidence presented, the Commission finds:

1. Statutory Notice and Commission Jurisdiction. Notice of the hearing in this Cause was given and published by the Commission as required by law. Petitioner 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 Petitioner's rates and charges related to adjustments in gas costs. Therefore, the Commission has jurisdiction over Petitioner and the subject matter of this Cause.

2. Petitioner's Characteristics. Petitioner is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana. Petitioner's principal office is located at 1080 West Hospital Road in Paoli, Indiana. Petitioner renders natural gas utility service to the public in Bartholomew, Brown, Crawford, Dubois, Harrison, Johnson, Lawrence and Orange counties in Indiana, and owns, operates, manages and controls plant and equipment for the distribution and furnishing of such service.

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

Petitioner's witness Mr. Osmon testified that Petitioner actively purchases fixed contracts, contracts relating to future periods, and appropriately sized contracts. Petitioner also plans for storage. In addition, Mr. Osmon testified that Petitioner monitors market conditions, flexes its GCA factors as appropriate, and uses a normal temperature adjustment mechanism during the heating season. For the months of November, December 2026, and January 2027, Petitioner has hedging in place through fixed contracts. Finally, Mr. Osmon testified Petitioner has storage gas available for all three months of the period covered in this GCA.

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 basis. Based on the evidence offered, we find that Petitioner has demonstrated that it has and continues to follow a policy of securing natural gas supply at the lowest gas cost reasonably possible to meet anticipated customer requirements. Therefore, we find that the requirement of this statutory provision has been fulfilled.

4. Purchased Gas Cost Rates. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(B) requires that Petitioner'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 factor. The evidence of record indicates that the proposed gas costs include transport rates that have been filed by Petitioner'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 Petitioner earning a return more than the return authorized by the last Commission Order in which Petitioner's basic rates and charges were approved. Petitioner's current basic rates and charges were approved on January 17, 2024 in Cause No. 45889. The Commission authorized Petitioner to earn a net operating income of $653,068.

Petitioner's evidence indicates that for the 12 months ending June 30, 2026, Petitioner's actual net operating income was $340,295. Therefore, based on the evidence of record, the Commission finds that Petitioner is earning a return of less than the net operating income authorized in Cause No. 45889.

6. Estimation of Purchase Gas Costs. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(D) requires that Petitioner'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 prior estimates are reasonable when compared to the corresponding actual cost. A 12-month rolling average comparison helps to eliminate the inherent variances related to cycle billing and seasonal fluctuations. The evidence presented indicates that Petitioner's 12-month rolling average comparison was 8.26% for the period ending June 30, 2026. Petitioner's witness Osmon indicated the rolling average tipped over 10% for the

12 months ending April 30, 2026, due to (1) a customer refund and (2) a billing irregularity from Petitioner's natural gas supplier, which he discussed in testimony in GCA 170. Based on Petitioner's historical accuracy in estimating the cost of gas and the testimony presented in this Cause, we find that Petitioner's estimating techniques are sound, and Petitioner's prospective average estimate of gas costs is reasonable.

7. Reconciliations.

A. Variances. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(g)(3)(D) also requires that Petitioner 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 variance for the reconciliation period of April, May, and June 2026 ("Reconciliation Period") is an over-collection of $78,319 from Petitioner's customers. This total amount should be included, based on estimated sales percentages, in this GCA and the next three GCAs. The amount of the Reconciliation Period variance to be included in this GCA is a decrease in the estimated net cost of gas of $35,314.

The variance from prior recovery periods applicable to the current recovery period is an under-collection of $209,439. Combining this amount with the Reconciliation Period variance results in a total under-collection of $174,125 to be applied in this GCA as an increase in the estimated net cost of gas.

B. Refunds. Petitioner received no refunds during the Reconciliation Period, but had $66,557 in negative unaccounted for gas on Schedule 11A that should be refunded to customers. There are $0 refunds from prior periods applicable to the current recovery period. The total refund to be applied in this GCA is $30,011, as shown on Schedule 12A.

8. Resulting Gas Cost Adjustment Factor. The estimated net commodity cost of gas to be recovered is $414,359 for November 2026, $688,357 for December 2026, and $909,778 for January 2027. Adjusting this total for the variance, refund, excess earnings, and demand amounts yields gas costs to be recovered through the GCA factor of $422,755 for November 2026, $698,493 for December 2026, and $923,098 for January 2027. After dividing that amount by estimated sales, Petitioner's recommended GCA factors are $4.9055/Dth for November 2026, $4.9477/Dth for December 2026, and $5.0677/Dth for January 2027.

9. Effects on Residential Customers - (GCA Cost Comparison). Petitioner requests authority to approve the GCA factors of $4.9055/Dth for November 2026, $4.9477/Dth for December 2026, and $5.0677/Dth for January 2027. The table below shows the commodity costs a residential customer will incur under the proposed GCA factors based on 10 Dth of usage. The table also compares the proposed gas costs to what a residential customer paid most recently (August 2026 - $5.1707) and a year ago (November 2025 - $4.7054/Dth, December 2025 - $5.3959/Dth, and January 2026 - $5.0159/Dth). The table reflects costs approved through the GCA process. It does not include Petitioner's base rates or any applicable rate adjustment mechanisms.

Month	Proposed Gas Costs (10 Dth)	Current		Year Ago	
		Gas Costs (10 Dth)	Difference From Current	Gas Cost (10 Dth)	Difference from Year Ago
November 2026	$49.06	$51.71	($2.65)	$47.05	$2.01
December 2026	$49.48	$51.71	($2.23)	$53.96	($4.48)
January 2027	$50.68	$51.71	($1.03)	$50.16	$0.52

10. Interim Rates. We are unable to determine whether Petitioner 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 Indiana Natural Gas Corporation for the gas cost adjustments for natural gas service, as set forth in Paragraph No. 8, is approved, subject to refund in accordance with Paragraph No. 10.

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 10:49:22 -04'00'

on behalf of

Dana Kosco
Secretary of the Commission