



ASU Rates

The IURC's recent [order](#) in the [American Suburban Utilities rate case](#) will allow for a much [lower increase](#) than the utility's proposal.

Monthly residential sewer rates for the Tippecanoe County utility will rise from \$59.08 to \$65.57. ASU initially requested a \$99.66 monthly rate.

The Commission agreed with a number of the OUCC's recommendations. OUCC attorneys and technical analysts put considerable efforts into this complex and challenging case, presenting recommendations on the utility's capital structure, numerous line items for operations and maintenance, and ASU's request for an authorized return on equity that would have been much higher than returns the Commission has approved for other water and wastewater utilities in recent years.

AES Eagle Valley Case

A settlement agreement regarding [AES Indiana's Eagle Valley generating station](#) has received [Commission approval](#), ensuring that \$21 million that could have been recovered through rates will not be passed through to customers.

The utility had sought to recover about \$41.5 million in purchased power costs, following two outages that kept the plant off-line for approximately 11 months.

Among the approved agreement's ratepayer protections:

- The remaining \$20.5 million will be recovered over a two-year period rather than the one-year period the utility had requested, reducing the impact on monthly customer bills.
- Ratepayers will receive a \$6.8 million credit over a three-month period.
- The utility agrees not to seek a return on any capital investment incurred to repair and replace damaged equipment as a result of the extended outages.

Parties to the agreement include the OUCC, a group of AES Indiana industrial customers, the Citizens Action Coalition, and AES Indiana.

CenterPoint Wind Case

Consumer comments are invited through Feb. 20 on [CenterPoint Energy's request](#) to purchase and operate a [new wind generating facility](#). The out-of-state facility would be operational by 2025, with a cost estimate of \$636 million. CenterPoint Energy's current integrated resource plan calls for the inclusion of 300 megawatts (MW) of wind capacity in its generation portfolio; the utility currently has 80 MW.

According to the utility's testimony, the proposal would add \$19.86 to a monthly electric residential bill for 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), not including offsets from the potential sale of renewable energy credits. Rate changes would most likely take effect in 2024. The OUCC is reviewing the request with

its primary focus on affordability concerns and whether the proposal would give the utility the most cost-effective means of meeting its customers' long-term reliability and resilience needs. OUCC testimony is due Feb. 27.

Additional Cases

Energy

- The OUCC filed testimony on Jan. 20 recommending that [NIPSCO's proposed electric rate increase](#) be reduced by nearly \$150 million. OUCC recommendations would also keep the electric utility's flat, monthly residential customer service charge at its current \$13.50 level. The utility's proposal would raise the charge to \$17.00. A Commission order in the case is expected this summer.
- [CenterPoint Energy's](#) new fuel cost adjustment will raise an average residential bill by \$13.20 due to higher wholesale costs for generating fuel. The OUCC recommended a longer time period for the recovery, which would have reduced the monthly increase to \$3.69.
- New fuel adjustment charges for [NIPSCO](#) recently received Commission approval, while the OUCC has filed testimony on [AES Indiana's](#) pending fuel adjustment proposal.
- The OUCC & [Citizens Gas of Westfield](#) have reached an [agreement in principle](#) on the utility's pending rate request gas rate case. A formal settlement agreement and supporting testimony are due Feb. 13.
- The deadline for OUCC recommendations in the [Fountaintown Gas](#) rate case has been extended to Mar. 5.

Water/Wastewater

- A [settlement agreement](#) on South Bend's [municipal water rates](#) and finances has received Commission approval.
- OUCC testimony on [Indiana American Water Company's](#) Distribution System Improvement Charge ([DSIC](#)) is due Feb. 20. The current DSIC on residential bills is \$3.18 and would rise to \$8.06 under the utility's request.
- The OUCC is scheduled to file recommendations this month in the [B&B Water Project](#) and [Eastern Richland Sewer](#) rate cases.
- Consumer comments are invited in the [Marion](#) and [East Chicago](#) municipal water rate cases.

211 Day

Feb. 11 (2/11) is 2-1-1 Day, an annual reminder that Indiana's [2-1-1 help line](#) is available statewide. Consumers seeking financial assistance with utility bills, housing, food, and additional services can call the three-digit 2-1-1 code any time (24/7) to be connected to local resources. The service is free and confidential.

OED Grant Opportunity

The Indiana Office of Energy Development (OED) is inviting communities throughout the state to apply for Community Energy Security Planning Grants.

Applications for the [federal dollars](#) are due by Mar. 1. The funding is aimed at enhancing electric reliability and resilience.

Our Mission

To represent all Indiana consumers to ensure quality, reliable utility services at the most reasonable prices possible through dedicated advocacy, consumer education, & creative problem solving.

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