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Consumer News... For You! The OUCC's October 2019 Newsletter

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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

CONSUMER NEWS... FOR YOU!

OCTOBER 2019



ENERGY VAMPIRES: SMALL BUT COSTLY

Some of the trick-or-treaters at your door on Halloween may be dressed as vampires. But there's another vampire you need to watch out for: [The energy vampire](#). Any phone charger or small appliance that's plugged in when you're not using it is still using some electricity. Those small amounts can add up. You can cut down on energy vampires by unplugging devices you're not using and using power strips, as well. Since October is Energy Awareness Month and winter is not far away, you can benefit by checking now for wasted power.

BEFORE YOU SIGN A CONTRACT...

If you're a Northern Indiana Public Service Co. (NIPSCO) customer, a caller or door-to-door solicitor may try to sign you up for a different natural gas supplier. Gas companies may compete under the NIPSCO Choice program, but the customer needs to remember that it is voluntary, is not designed to be a savings program, and that it's crucial to read the fine print before signing any contract. The OUCC website offers [more information](#) that can help you make an informed decision.



CASE UPDATES

[Consumer comments](#) in the [Duke Energy](#) rate case are due Oct. 23.

The IURC evidentiary hearing in the [Indiana Michigan Power](#) (I&M) rate case starts Oct. 7. A decision is expected in 2020.

A Commission hearing on the [Indianapolis Power & Light](#) (IPL) infrastructure plan is scheduled for Nov. 14.

The [NIPSCO](#) electric rate case is fully briefed and awaiting a Commission order.

OUCC analysts and attorneys are reviewing [Vectren's](#) proposed AB Brown ash pond mitigation plan with testimony due Dec. 10.

The OUCC has reached settlement agreements with [Brown County](#) Water and [Boonville](#) Natural Gas in their respective rate cases. Both settlements are pending.



LOOKING AHEAD

Indiana's [21st Century Energy Development Task Force](#) has held three of its five scheduled meetings this year, with additional meetings to come in 2020. Utility Consumer Counselor Bill Fine is one of 15 task force members studying the state's needs for future electric generation and transmission.

OUR MISSION

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.

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