



Bloomington Water Rate Case

IURC Cause No. 45533

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing is an opportunity for consumers to speak on the record to the judge and commissioners. No final decision will be made during the hearing, and an IURC order will be issued on a future date.

The IURC is the state agency that has jurisdiction over Bloomington's water rates and charges. State law requires the IURC to balance utility and ratepayer interests, and to base its decision in each case on the evidence in the record.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is the separate state agency that represents the interests of all ratepayers in IURC cases.

The July 6 field hearing has one purpose: To give consumers the chance to speak.

- **An IURC public field hearing is a formal, legal proceeding.** An Administrative Law Judge presides with at least one IURC Commissioner present.
- **You may speak, provide written comments, or do both.**
 - An OUCC attorney will call on speakers during the hearing. All speakers will be sworn in and asked to spell their names for the court reporter, who will record comments made under oath for the case record.
 - If you prefer to submit written comments, the OUCC needs to receive them by the close of business on Friday, July 16.
- Field hearings do not include presentations by utilities. Bloomington filed its testimony and evidence in April 2021.

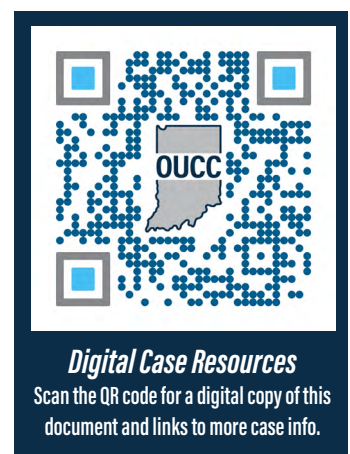
Agencies & Roles:

Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)

- State agency
- Represents the interests of all Indiana utility consumers, including residential, commercial, and industrial, in cases before the IURC and federal utility regulatory commissions
- Staff of attorneys, accountants, engineers, economists, consumer services, and support personnel

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)

- State agency
- Regulates rates, financing, etc. for many, but not all, Indiana utilities.
- Conducts public hearings including the July 6 field hearing
- Required by law to make decisions that balance the interests of utilities and consumers



The Case & Process:

- **Bloomington's request is pending under IURC Cause No. 45533.** The utility is seeking a two-phase, \$3.7 million increase in its water rates and charges. A monthly residential water bill for 5,000 gallons, including fire protection charges, would rise as follows:

	Current Water Rates	Proposed Water Rates: 2022	Proposed Water Rates: 2024
In City	\$26.50	\$29.07	\$31.45
Out of City	\$27.82	\$30.30	\$32.68

- The city is also seeking IURC authority to issue up to \$17.2 million in long-term debt.
- According to the city's testimony, the rate and financing request would cover increases in operating and maintenance costs, along with a five-year capital improvement plan to address aging infrastructure throughout its water distribution system. Specific projects include improvements to the Monroe Water Treatment Plant, main replacements, hydrant maintenance, booster station rehabilitations, storage tank improvements, and an inventory of lead service lines. Additional improvements include new meters and solar equipment to produce electricity for the utility's infrastructure.
- Bloomington's current water rates received IURC approval in 2017.
- Only the city's *water* rates are at issue in this case. The IURC does not have jurisdiction over municipal *sewer* rates, which are set by locally elected city and town councils throughout Indiana.
- **The OUCC has until July 23, 2021 to take a formal position.**
 - Under Indiana law, the OUCC represents the interests of all consumers (residential, commercial, and industrial) in cases before the IURC and federal utility commissions. Our attorneys, accountants, engineers, and economists are reviewing the utility's request. We will file testimony with the IURC based on our review. It will be posted at www.in.gov/oucc along with future case updates.
- Additional intervenors include Indiana University and the Washington Township Water Authority. Any testimony intervenors may file is due by July 23, 2021.
- Bloomington will have until Aug. 20, 2021 to file rebuttal testimony.
- An IURC evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to start on Sept. 27, 2021 and is scheduled to last up to 3 days as needed. At evidentiary hearings, attorneys and Commissioners may question technical witnesses for the case's formal parties. Closing briefs will be filed in the weeks following the evidentiary hearing.
- The final order in this case is expected by February 2022. Final orders are issued at the IURC's weekly conferences, typically on Wednesdays. Agendas are posted 48 hours in advance at www.in.gov/iurc/2428.htm.
- A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. All dates are subject to change.

All publicly filed documents are available online. To view the IURC's public case file:

- Visit <https://iurc.portal.in.gov/advanced-search/>.
- Enter 45533 in the "Cause Number" field, check the "I'm not a robot" box, and click "Search."
- The Cause Number, 45533, will then appear near the bottom of the page. Click the blue cause number and you will be directed to the file.

Indiana Office Of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)

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Visit us online: www.in.gov/oucc • Subscribe to our newsletter: www.in.gov/oucc/news

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.