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Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

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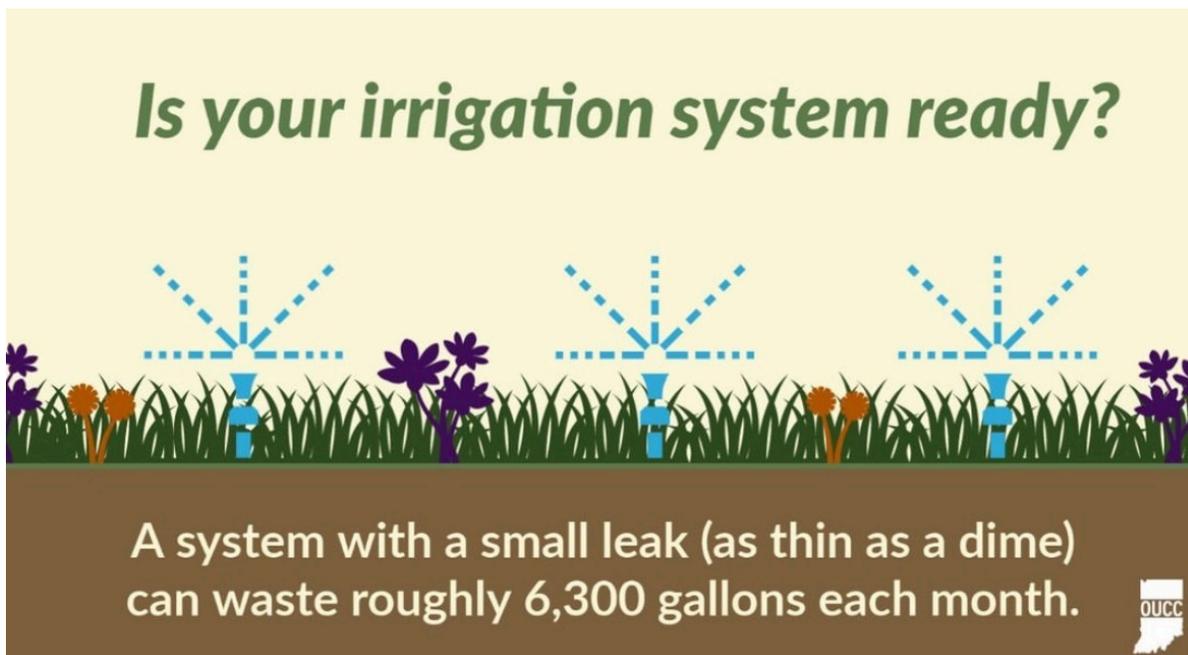
Consumer News...For You! July 2025

*Smart Irrigation Month * Case Updates * Smart Savings*

Smart Irrigation

July is Smart Irrigation Month. If you water the lawn at your home or business, keep these tips in mind.

- Avoid watering in the middle of the day.
- Remember that some plants need less water than others.
- If you have an irrigation system, be sure to check it for leaks and adjust the schedule regularly to compensate for seasonal changes.
- Be aware of [technology](#) that may keep the system from "overwatering."



Rate Cases

- The OUCC is inviting written public comments as it reviews [AES Indiana's](#) pending rate request. In addition, the IURC will be scheduling public field hearings. OUCC testimony in the AES rate case is due Sept. 9. A monthly residential electric bill for 1,000 kWh would rise to \$177.60 according to the utility's filings, in which AES states it is seeking the increase due to infrastructure improvements and increases in operating costs.
- An approved settlement agreement in the [NIPSCO](#) electric rate case will keep the monthly \$14.00 residential customer charge at its current level. The Commission's final order reduces the utility's request by \$111 million.
- The OUCC's final brief in the [Anderson Municipal Water](#) rate case is due July 22 with a Commission order expected this fall. Recommendations from the OUCC would significantly reduce the city's 119% request.

Additional Cases

- The IURC's evidentiary hearing on [Duke Energy's](#) proposal to build a new natural gas-fired power plant in Vermillion County, including permission to recover costs through future rates, has been rescheduled to Aug. 1. The utility and Reliable Energy, Inc. have reached a settlement agreement in the case. Responsive testimony from the OUCC and additional parties will be filed July 14.
- [NIPSCO's](#) natural gas utility is seeking approval of a new pipeline safety plan for federal compliance. OUCC testimony is due July 15.
- Proposed energy efficiency plans for [CenterPoint Energy's](#) natural gas utilities and for [Indiana Michigan Power](#) are pending before the IURC. The OUCC recommends approval of the CenterPoint plan on certain conditions and is scheduled to file testimony on I&M's proposed plan in mid-August.

Check Your Water Heater

We all think about our air conditioners in the summer. But the water heater is another big energy user, and yours may be working harder than it needs to. Many water heaters are set at 130 or 140 degrees. By lowering the thermostat to 115 or 120, you'll [save money](#) and still have the hot water you need.



Smart Savings

Many water heaters are set at 130 or 140 degrees but only need to be at 120. Lower the thermostat and save today!



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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