



**For Immediate Release**

**May 21, 2024**

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## **Duke Energy Rate Case: Public Comments Invited**

### ***IURC Hearing Scheduled for June 4 in Terre Haute***

### ***Additional Hearings to be Scheduled***

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on Duke Energy's pending rate request through July 5, 2024.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing in Terre Haute on June 4, 2024. Additional field hearings in Bloomington, Fishers, and New Albany will be scheduled at future dates to be determined.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review Duke Energy's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due July 11, 2024.

#### **Written Consumer Comments**

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the OUCC's website at [www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.in.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.in.gov), or by mail at:

Public Comments  
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)  
115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Friday, July 5, 2024**, so that it can: 1) Consider comments in preparing its testimony and 2) File them with the Commission to be included in the case's formal evidentiary record. Comments should include the consumer's name and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 46038**" or **Duke Energy Rates**. Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

#### **Public Field Hearings**

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing in Terre Haute on June 4, 2024, at Ivy Tech Community College in the Oakley Auditorium (8000 S. Education Drive).

The hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. Attendees are required to comply with all local health and safety regulations. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearings.

**(Continued)**

The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision in this case is expected next year.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearings will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by July 5, 2024.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, Duke Energy filed testimony and exhibits in April 2024.
- Commissioners are not allowed to answer questions about the case. They will ultimately render a decision after weighing evidence from the utility, the OUCC, and intervening parties.

## Case Overview

Duke Energy's request would raise annual revenues for its Indiana electric utility by nearly \$492 million. The flat, monthly connection charge for each residential customer would rise from \$10.54 to \$13.70. The volumetric portion of the bill would also rise. Duke Energy's testimony and exhibits project that an average monthly residential bill for 1,000 kWh would be \$170.67 when new rates are fully implemented in March 2025. \*

In its testimony, the utility states it is seeking the increase due to numerous infrastructure projects at its power plants and throughout its transmission and distribution system, along with increased operating and maintenance costs.

Duke Energy serves approximately 900,000 electric customers in 69 Indiana counties.

The utility's current base rates received IURC approval in 2020. However, billing amounts have since changed through tracker adjustments, which allow utilities to raise or reduce rates for specific costs subject to OUCC review and IURC approval. All Indiana investor-owned electric utilities use trackers to varying degrees. Duke Energy uses them to recover costs for fuel and purchased power, transmission and distribution infrastructure improvements, compliance with federal environmental regulations, energy efficiency programs, and regional transmission.

Several additional parties have intervened in this case, including the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Sierra Club, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, the River Ridge Property Owners' Association (Clark County), Blocke LLC, The Kroger Co., and industrial customers including Nucor Steel, Cargill, Elanco, General Motors, Harrison Steel Castings, Haynes International, Primient, Stellantis, Subaru of Indiana Automotive, and USG Corporation. Any testimony the intervening parties may file is due on July 11, 2024.

## Duke Energy Rate Case Timeline

All dates are subject to change. A settlement is possible in any legal proceeding.

July 5, 2024

**Public Comment Deadline**

*The OUCC accepts written comments online and by mail.*

July 11, 2024

**OUCC Testimony**

*OUCC attorneys & technical experts will file recommendations.*

Aug. 8, 2024

**Rebuttal Testimony**

*Utility may file testimony in response.*

Aug. 29, 2024

**IURC Evidentiary Hearing Starts**

*Attorneys for the OUCC, utility, & intervenors may cross-examine each other's technical witnesses.*

Oct. 2024

**Closing Briefs**

*The OUCC, utility, & intervenors may file closing briefs in the weeks following the evidentiary hearing.*

Early 2025

**Order**

*The IURC issues a final order after considering all evidence.*

(Continued)

\*IURC Cause No. 46038, Petitioner's Exhibit 7-D

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. If an agreement is reached, the settling parties are required to present evidence showing it to be in the public interest. The IURC may approve, deny, or modify any settlement it considers.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at [www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/duke-energy-rates/duke-energy-rate-case/](http://www.in.gov/oucc/electric/key-cases-by-utility/duke-energy-rates/duke-energy-rate-case/). Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at [www.in.gov/oucc/news](http://www.in.gov/oucc/news).

(IURC Cause No. 46038)

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) represents Indiana consumer interests before state and federal bodies that regulate utilities. As a state agency, the OUCC's mission is 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.