



For Immediate Release

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Southwestern Bartholomew Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments on Southwestern Bartholomew Water Corporation's pending rate request through Oct. 1, 2025.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due Oct. 8, 2025.

In addition, the IURC will hold a public field hearing in Columbus on Sept. 17, 2025.

Written Consumer Comments

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so via the form on the OUCC's website at www.in.gov/oucc/2361.htm, or by mail at:

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

Consumer comments will be included in the formal case record for Commission review. Comments **should not** contain sensitive or personal information as comments will become viewable and searchable online once posted to the IURC's online case file. Consumers with questions about commenting can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff at 1-888-441-2494.

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Wednesday, Oct. 1, 2025**, 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, town, zip code, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 46269**" or "**Southwestern Bartholomew Water.**" Consumers with questions about submitting written comments can contact the OUCC's consumer services staff toll-free at 1-888-441-2494.

Public Field Hearing

The IURC has scheduled a public field hearing for Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Cal Brand meeting room at Columbus City Hall (123 Washington Street, Columbus).

The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearings. A final decision in this case is expected next year.

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- 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 Oct. 1, 2025.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, Southwestern Bartholomew Water filed testimony and exhibits in July 2025.
- 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

According to the utility's testimony and exhibits, the pending request would raise monthly rates for a residential customer using 4,000 gallons from \$50.44 to \$75.83. The increase would be implemented in two phases. The utility is also seeking Commission authority to issue up to approximately \$7.9 million in long-term debt. In its filing, Southwestern Bartholomew Water cites higher operating and maintenance costs, along with the need for infrastructure improvements, including water plant improvements, tank restoration, booster pump replacements, and additional capital projects.

Southwestern Bartholomew Water's current base rates received IURC approval in 2016 but have increased since then to recover increases in wholesale water charges. The utility provides service to more than 3,200 customers in Bartholomew and Brown Counties.

A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding; such an agreement, if reached, would require IURC approval.

A final Commission order is expected in spring 2026.

The OUCC is posting case updates online at www.in.gov/oucc/watersewer/key-cases-by-utility/southwestern-bartholomew-water-corporation/. Case updates are also available through the agency's monthly electronic newsletter. Consumers can subscribe at www.in.gov/oucc/news/.

(IURC Cause No. 46269)

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.