



For Immediate Release

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Michigan City Water Rate Case: Public Comments Invited

IURC Hearing July 6 in Michigan City

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is inviting public comments through July 7, 2026, regarding Michigan City's pending water rate case.

In addition, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) will hold a public field hearing on the pending case in Michigan City on July 6, 2026.

The OUCC – the state agency representing consumer interests in cases before the IURC – is using its technical and legal resources to review the utility's proposal. Formal testimony from the OUCC is due July 13, 2026.

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.

The OUCC needs to receive all written consumer comments **no later than Tuesday July 7, 2026**, 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, city, zip code, and a reference to either "**IURC Cause No. 46379**" or "**Michigan City Municipal 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 in this case for July 6, 2026, in Michigan City's City Hall Common Council Chambers (100 E. Michigan Boulevard).

The hearing will begin at **6:00 p.m. central time**. Consumers are encouraged to arrive by 5:45 p.m. for an overview of field hearing procedures and the rate case process. No final decisions about the case will be made at the hearing.

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The sole purpose of a field hearing is to receive public testimony. A final decision on Michigan City's rate case is expected in **Fall 2026**.

- Consumers can speak directly to the Commission under oath and on the record.
- Oral comments presented during the field hearing will become part of the case record. They will carry the same weight as written consumer comments submitted to the OUCC by July 7, 2026.
- Utilities do not make presentations or answer questions during field hearings. The focus, again, is on public input. In this case, the City filed testimony and exhibits in March 2026.
- 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 any intervening parties. OUCC staff will be available to answer questions at the hearing.

Case Overview

Michigan City Municipal Water is seeking a three-phase, \$4.7 Million increase in its annual operating revenues.

The city proposes to obtain the necessary funds for the issuance of new debt in an amount not to exceed \$46,760,500. According to its testimony, the city is seeking changes due to higher operating and maintenance costs and to pay for infrastructure repairs, replacements, extensions, and improvements. Specific items include repairs and replacements to water distribution mains, a new 1.5 MG Eastwood ground storage tank and booster station, water main extensions, lead service line replacements, a new Beverly Shores 0.25 MG ground storage tank, and a new 1 MG Southside elevated storage tank.

The utility is proposing a three-phase increase in rates. Under the city's pending proposal, monthly water charges for a residential customer using 535 cubic feet (4,000 gallons) would rise as follows:

Residential Customers			
Current Rates	Phase 1 (Fall 2026)	Phase 2 (Fall 2027)	Phase 3 (Fall 2028)
\$23.09	\$32.48	\$34.95	\$38.51

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 the state.

Michigan City's current water rates received IURC approval in 2017 (Cause No. 44835).

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

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

(IURC Cause No. 46379)

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.