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## Consumer News...For You!

### September 2025

*Welcome to our New UCC \* AES Rate Case \* Tips for Saving*

#### **Congrats! And Thank You!**

Governor Mike Braun has appointed Abby R. Gray as Indiana's new Utility Consumer Counselor.

Counselor Gray has served as the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor's (OUCC's) Executive Director of Legal Operations since joining the agency in 2009. Before joining the OUCC, she spent 23 years with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), serving as Senior Administrative Law Judge and Senior Commission Counsel.

A Fort Wayne native, Counselor Gray lives in Brown County with her husband. She is a graduate of the Indiana University Indianapolis School of Law (now McKinney School of Law) and received her undergraduate degree at Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University).

While we congratulate Counselor Gray on her new role, we also congratulate and thank Bill Fine, who retired as Utility Consumer Counselor in August. Counselor Fine led the OUCC for more than 8 years and spent more than 48 years practicing law. Counselor Fine is a Northwest Indiana native who looks forward to enjoying time with his wife, children, and grandchildren in retirement.



## AES Rate Case

The OUCC is recommending denial of AES Indiana's request for a \$192.9 Million rate increase. Instead, the OUCC's analysis shows that a \$21.2 Million reduction to current base rates is warranted based on the case's evidence and applicable law.

Eleven OUCC witnesses filed testimony with the IURC this week, following a three-month legal and technical review of the utility's testimony and exhibits.

The OUCC's testimony recommends:

- Reducing AES Indiana's monthly customer service charge for most residential customers from \$17.00 to \$11.25. The utility proposes raising the charge to \$20.00 in this case. OUCC recommendations would also reduce small commercial customer service charges.
- Reducing the utility's authorized return on equity to 8.5%. AES Indiana is seeking Commission approval to raise its currently authorized 9.9% amount to 10.7%. The OUCC's recommended reduction cites factors including affordability concerns and problems customers have encountered with the utility's billing system.
- Decreasing the utility's proposed depreciation expense and reducing numerous line items from the AES Indiana's proposed amounts for operating and maintenance expenses.
- Keeping vegetation management costs at their current levels based on the utility's performance.
- Elimination of more than 100 "phantom hires" in the company's budget. The utility's request seeks rate recovery for 105 vacant positions.

The OUCC has received more than 6,700 written consumer comments and included them in this week's filing with the Commission. In addition, the IURC held four public field hearings throughout Marion County in August, at which 89 AES customers spoke in opposition to the requested rate increase.

Case updates are being [posted online](#). A final Commission order is expected in spring 2026.

## Case Updates

- The OUCC's closing brief on Duke Energy's proposed natural gas-fired power plant at [Cayuga](#) is due Sept. 22.
- Duke Energy is requesting IURC approval of [power purchase agreements](#) for new battery storage facilities that are being planned in Decatur and Jefferson Counties. OUCC testimony will be due on a date to be determined.
- A settlement agreement on Indiana Michigan Power's plan to purchase and operate a natural gas-fired [generation facility](#) in Ohio is pending.
- An IURC [field hearing](#) in the Southwestern Bartholomew Water rate case is scheduled for Sept. 17 in Columbus.

## 9 Tips for Savings

Since September is the 9th month of the year, here are 9 reminders:

1. Consider a home energy audit through your utility or online.
2. Make sure your HVAC system has a clean filter.
3. Schedule a tune-up for your HVAC system.
4. Check your attic insulation. It can settle over time, becoming less effective.
5. Use exhaust fans as little as possible.
6. Unplug appliances when you're not using them, or use a smart power strip.
7. Keep your water heater at 115 or 120 degrees.
8. Check toilets regularly for leaks.
9. If you water the lawn, do so in the early morning or late evening, and don't use a sprinkler with a fine mist.

For additional [water](#) and [energy](#) savings tips, visit our website!



## 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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