



# Vectren North Gas Rate Case

## IURC Cause No. 45468

The Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's (IURC's) public field hearing is an opportunity for consumers to speak on the record to the judge and commissioners. No final decision will be made during the hearing, and an IURC order will be issued on a future date.

The IURC is the state agency that has jurisdiction over Vectren's rates and charges. State law requires the IURC to balance utility and ratepayer interests, and to base its decision in each case on the evidence in the record.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC) is the separate state agency that represents the interests of all ratepayers in IURC cases.

**The Mar. 16 field hearing has one purpose: To give consumers the chance to speak.**

- **An IURC public field hearing is a formal, legal proceeding.** An Administrative Law Judge presides with at least one IURC Commissioner present.
- **You may speak, provide written comments, or do both.**
  - An OUCC attorney will call on speakers during the hearing. All speakers will be sworn in and asked to spell their names for the court reporter, who will record comments made under oath for the case record.
  - If you prefer to submit written comments, the OUCC needs to receive them by the close of business on Wednesday, Mar. 24.
- Field hearings do not include presentations by utilities. Vectren filed its testimony and evidence in December 2020.

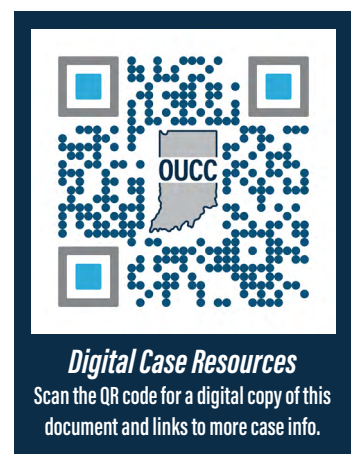
### Agencies & Roles:

#### Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)

- State agency
- Represents the interests of all Indiana utility consumers, including residential, commercial, and industrial, in cases before the IURC and federal utility regulatory commissions
- Staff of attorneys, accountants, engineers, economists, consumer services, and support personnel

#### Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC)

- State agency
- Regulates rates, financing, etc. for many, but not all, Indiana utilities.
- Conducts public hearings including the Mar. 16 field hearing
- Required by law to make decisions that balance the interests of utilities and consumers



## The Case & Process:

- **The CenterPoint/Vectren North request is pending under IURC Cause No. 45468.** The utility is seeking a two-phase increase in natural gas rates and charges in its 51-county territory formerly served by Indiana Gas Co. Its testimony and exhibits show that its request, when fully implemented, would change total residential gas charges as follows:

Monthly Usage	Current Gas Bill	Proposed Gas Bill
20 therms	\$31.91	\$33.63
50 therms	\$50.98	\$53.64
100 therms	\$79.75	\$82.97

- Each Vectren North residential gas bill includes \$17.59 in monthly fixed charges that do not vary among customers: 1) An \$11.25 customer service charge and 2) A \$6.34 Compliance and System Improvement Adjustment (CSIA) which recovers specific costs for infrastructure projects and compliance with federal pipeline safety mandates. Vectren North's pending request would replace both charges with a \$21.50 monthly customer service charge. The remainder of the bill varies by customer usage.
- Vectren North's current base rates received IURC approval in 2008 and were reduced in 2018 due to the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Total billing amounts have also varied due to changes in wholesale commodity costs along with incremental increases to pay for specific infrastructure and federally mandated costs as allowed by Indiana law.
- CenterPoint Energy's request for a natural gas rate increase in the Vectren South territory (covering 9 southwestern Indiana counties) is pending in a separate case.
- **The OUCC has until Mar. 31, 2021 to take a formal position.**
  - Under Indiana law, the OUCC represents the interests of all consumers (residential, commercial, and industrial) in cases before the IURC and federal utility commissions. Our attorneys, accountants, engineers, and economists are reviewing the utility's request. We will file testimony with the IURC based on our review. It will be posted at [www.in.gov/oucc](http://www.in.gov/oucc) along with future case updates.
- Additional intervenors include the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Direct Energy Business Marketing, and Vectren industrial customers (including General Motors, Honda of America Manufacturing, Tate & Lyle Ingredients, Steel Dynamics, and USG Corporation). Any testimony intervenors may file is due by Mar. 31, 2021.
- Vectren will have until May 3, 2021 to file rebuttal testimony.
- An IURC evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to start on May 24, 2021 and is scheduled to last up to 10 days as needed. At evidentiary hearings, attorneys and Commissioners may question technical witnesses for the case's formal parties. Closing briefs will be filed several weeks after the evidentiary hearing concludes.
- The final order in this case is expected later this year. Final orders are issued at the IURC's weekly conferences, typically on Wednesdays. Agendas are posted 48 hours in advance at [www.in.gov/iurc/2428.htm](http://www.in.gov/iurc/2428.htm).
- A settlement agreement is possible in any legal proceeding. All dates are subject to change.

All publicly filed documents are available online. To view the IURC's public case file:

- Visit <https://iurc.portal.in.gov/advanced-search/>.
- Enter 45468 in the "Cause Number" field, check the "I'm not a robot" box, and click "Search."
- The Cause Number, 45468, will then appear near the bottom of the page. Click the blue cause number and you will be directed to the file.

## Indiana Office Of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)

115 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204 • Phone: 317.232.2494 • Toll-Free: 1.888.441.2494

Visit us online: [www.in.gov/oucc](http://www.in.gov/oucc) • Subscribe to our newsletter: [www.in.gov/oucc/news](http://www.in.gov/oucc/news)

*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.