

ARTICLE 14. SMALL UTILITIES

Rule 1. Rate Changes

170 IAC 14-1-1 Definitions

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61

Sec. 1. (a) As used in this rule, "commission" means the Indiana utility regulatory commission.

(b) As used in this rule, "small utility" means a utility subject to the jurisdiction of the commission, with fewer than five thousand (5,000) customers as of the date any application for rate change is filed. The small utility must be one (1) of the following types:

- (1) A not-for-profit water utility.
- (2) A private rural water and sewer utility.
- (3) A private rural water utility.
- (4) An investor-owned water utility.
- (5) An investor-owned gas utility.
- (6) A municipal utility.
- (7) An investor-owned local exchange carrier telephone company.
- (8) A distribution cooperative.

(c) As used in this rule, "application for rate change" means an application, filed with the commission by a utility in accordance with section 2 of this rule, which functions as a petition or in support of a petition for rate change.

(d) As used in this rule, "incomplete application" means an application filed under section 2 of this rule in which either one (1) or more of the elements specified is missing or incomplete. Any blanks not filled in or any interrogatories not answered in the form prescribed under section 2(a)(3) of this rule constitutes an incomplete element and therefore an incomplete application.

(e) As used in this rule, "small utility rate change application form" means that current set of forms, schedules, blanks, and instructions generated by the commission and made available to those who would petition for a rate change under section 2 of this rule. The staff shall develop the set of forms, schedules, blanks, and instructions which comprise the small utility rate change application form. Such form will be revised from time to time as circumstances dictate. Furthermore, staff may periodically establish and publish generic rates of return for each of the utility types specified under subsection (b) to be used by utilities when submitting a small utility application form.

(f) As used in this rule, "request for formal public hearing" means a written statement that a hearing is wanted. The request shall be filed with the secretary of the commission and be signed by those making the request.

(g) As used in this rule, "customer" means any person, firm, corporation, municipality, or other government agency which receives service from a small utility; provided, that for the purposes of this rule, any customer as defined in this subsection who has more than one (1) connection and is rendered an individual bill for each such connection shall be counted as one (1) customer for each connection. (*Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-1; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2918; errata, 10 IR 254; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1945; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233*)

170 IAC 14-1-2 Application for rate change

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61.5

Sec. 2. (a) Any small utility availing itself of this procedure must file an original and eight (8) copies of an application for rate change with the secretary of the commission and contemporaneously serve a copy of such application on the office of the utility consumer counselor. The application must include the following:

- (1) A copy of the proposed notice required in subsection (b)(1) exclusive of the date specified in subsection (b)(1)(A). Proof of publication of the actual notice required in subsection (b)(1) must be filed within fifteen (15) days after the filing of the application for rate change.
- (2) A copy of the proposed written notice required in subsection (b)(2) exclusive of the date specified in subsection (b)(2)(A). An actual copy of the notice required in subsection (b)(2) must be filed within fifteen (15) days after the filing of the application for rate change.
- (3) A complete small utility rate change application form in its current version, which form is available from the Rates

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Division, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 302 West Washington Street, Room E306, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

(4) A copy of the resolution or ordinance of the utility's governing body that authorizes the application for rate change.

(5) A verified statement by a responsible officer or manager of the small utility as to whether or not the small utility has an outstanding indebtedness to the federal government, if the small utility is a not-for-profit water utility, conservancy district water utility, or municipal utility.

(6) Written consent from any agency of the federal government that is a creditor of the small utility that the utility may obtain an order affecting its rates without a formal public hearing, if the small utility is a not-for-profit water utility, conservancy district water utility, or municipal utility.

(b) Notice requirements for this procedure comprise the following:

(1) Publication of a notice of filing of the application for rate change, no later than ten (10) days after the filing of the application for rate change in a newspaper of general circulation in any and all counties in which the utility renders service, which notice will advise the public of the following:

(A) The date the application for rate change was filed with the utility regulatory commission.

(B) The statement that the utility has filed its application for rate change under IC 8-1-2-61.5 without the necessary costs of a utility regulatory commission hearing; however, a public hearing by the utility regulatory commission may be held if any public or municipal corporation, ten (10) individuals, firms, corporations, or associations, or ten (10) complainants of all or any of these classes affected by the proposed rate change or the utility consumer counselor requests a formal public hearing by filing a written signed request with the Secretary, Utility Regulatory Commission, 302 West Washington Street, Room E306, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

(C) The overall approximate percentage increase in revenues requested by the utility. Furthermore, if the proposed increase is other than an across-the-board increase, then the approximate percentage increase to each class of customers must be described along with any other information that fairly summarizes the nature and extent of the proposed changes.

(D) The written request in clause (B) must be received by the utility regulatory commission within forty (40) days of the date the application for rate change was filed with the utility regulatory commission.

(E) The statement that there likely will be no hearing in the absence of a written request.

(2) Provision of written notice of the application for rate change to each customer no later than ten (10) days after the filing of the application for rate change, which notice will advise the customers of the following:

(A) The date the application for rate change was filed with the utility regulatory commission.

(B) The statement that the utility has filed its application for rate change under IC 8-1-2-61.5 without the necessary costs of a utility regulatory commission hearing; however, a public hearing by the utility regulatory commission may be held if any public or municipal corporation, ten (10) individuals, firms, corporations, or associations, or ten (10) complainants of all or any of these classes affected by the proposed rate change or the utility consumer counselor requests a formal public hearing by filing a written signed request with the Secretary, Utility Regulatory Commission, 302 West Washington Street, Room E306, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

(C) The overall approximate percentage increase in revenues requested by the utility. Furthermore, if the proposed increase is other than an across-the-board increase, then the approximate percentage increase to each class of customers must be described along with any other information that fairly summarizes the nature and extent of the proposed change.

(D) The written request in clause (B) must be received by the utility regulatory commission within forty (40) days of the date the application for rate change was filed with the utility regulatory commission.

(E) The statement that there likely will be no hearing in the absence of a written request.

(Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-2; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2918; errata, 10 IR 254; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1946; filed Jan 5, 2000, 3:52 p.m.: 23 IR 1091; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233)

170 IAC 14-1-3 Incomplete applications

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61

Sec. 3. (a) In the event the initial application for rate change is an incomplete application, the staff of the commission shall file, within fifteen (15) days of the date of the filing of the initial application, a report with the secretary of the commission. Said report shall specify which elements of the application are missing or incomplete.

(b) The ninety (90) calendar days specified under section 4(a) of this rule and the forty (40) calendar days specified under section 6(b) of this rule shall not be counted from the date an incomplete application was originally filed, but shall be counted from the date the small utility corrects the deficiencies specified in the staff report filed under subsection (a).

(c) The commission may dismiss without prejudice any incomplete application which remains on file more than ninety (90) days. (*Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-3; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2919; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1947; errata filed Sep 9, 1991, 10:45 a.m.: 15 IR 10; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233*)

170 IAC 14-1-4 Review and report on application for rate change; request to file written response

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61

Sec. 4. (a) The utility consumer counselor staff will review the application for rate change and shall within ninety (90) calendar days after the filing of a complete application or substantive amendment to such application file a report with the secretary of the commission on the application making such recommendations as the utility consumer counselor deems appropriate. By order of the commission, such time for filing of the report may be extended if so requested by the office of the utility consumer counselor.

(b) The small utility may request leave to file a written response to the utility consumer counselor staff report required in subsection (a). Such request shall be in writing and filed with the secretary of the commission no later than fifteen (15) days following the date that the utility consumer counselor's staff report was filed. (*Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-4; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2920; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1947; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233*)

170 IAC 14-1-5 Hearing on application

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61

Sec. 5. (a) A request for formal public hearing on an application for rate change filed under this rule shall be filed with the secretary of the commission within forty (40) calendar days of the initial filing of the application for rate change, unless the commission extends the period for filing.

(b) The commission may, upon a request timely filed by any public or municipal corporation, ten (10) individuals, firms, corporations, or associations, or ten (10) complainants of all, or any, of these classes affected by the proposed rate change or by the utility consumer counselor, conduct a formal public hearing with respect to any application for rate change.

(c) The commission may require a formal public hearing on its own motion.

(d) In the event a formal public hearing is held, under this section, the small utility may elect to designate its application to serve as its prefiled evidence, constituting its case-in-chief; however, the small utility is not precluded from filing additional evidence. (*Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-5; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2920; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1947; filed Jan 5, 2000, 3:52 p.m.: 23 IR 1092; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233*)

170 IAC 14-1-6 Decision on application

Authority: IC 8-1-1-3; IC 8-1-2-4; IC 8-1-2-61.5

Affected: IC 8-1-2-61

Sec. 6. (a) If no formal hearing is held, the commission may issue an order on the application for rate change based on the data in the application for rate change, the report filed by the utility consumer counselor's staff concerning the application for rate change, and any written response of the small utility to the utility consumer counselor's staff report.

(b) The commission shall not enter an order under this procedure until forty (40) calendar days have elapsed from the date of the initial filing of the application for rate change. (*Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission; 170 IAC 14-1-6; filed Jul 11, 1986, 9:47 a.m.: 9 IR 2920; filed Jun 19, 1991, 3:45 p.m.: 14 IR 1948; filed Jan 5, 2000, 3:52 p.m.: 23 IR 1092; readopted filed Jul 11, 2001, 4:30 p.m.: 24 IR 4233*)

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