

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

PETITION OF INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT)
COMPANY ("IPL") FOR (1) AUTHORITY TO INCREASE)
RATES AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY)
SERVICE, (2) APPROVAL OF REVISED DEPRECIATION)
RATES, ACCOUNTING RELIEF, INCLUDING UPDATE OF)
THE MAJOR STORM DAMAGE RESTORATION RESERVE)
ACCOUNT, APPROVAL OF A VEGETATION)
MANAGEMENT RESERVE ACCOUNT, INCLUSION IN)
BASIC RATES AND CHARGES OF THE COSTS OF)
CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY APPROVED PROJECTS,)
INCLUDING THE EAGLE VALLEY COMBINED CYCLE)
GAS TURBINE, THE NATIONAL POLLUTION)
DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM AND COAL)
COMBUSTION RESIDUALS COMPLIANCE PROJECTS,)
RATE ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM PROPOSALS, COST)
DEFERRALS, AMORTIZATIONS, AND (3) APPROVAL OF)
NEW SCHEDULES OF RATES, RULES AND)
REGULATIONS FOR SERVICE.)

CAUSE NO. 45029

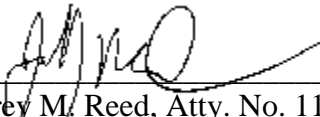
INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

SETTLEMENT TESTIMONY OF

STACIE R. GRUCA – PUBLIC’S EXHIBIT NO. 1-S

JULY 23, 2018

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey M. Reed, Atty. No. 11651-49
Deputy Consumer Counselor

OUCC SETTLEMENT TESTIMONY OF STACIE R. GRUCA
CAUSE NO. 45029
INDIANAPOLIS POWER & LIGHT COMPANY

I. INTRODUCTION

1 **Q: Please state your name, business address and employment capacity.**

2 A: My name is Stacie R. Gruca, and my business address is 115 West Washington
3 St., Suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. I am employed by the Indiana
4 Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") as the Director of the Electric
5 Division. For a summary of my educational and professional background and my
6 preparation for this case, please see Appendix A attached to my testimony.

7 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

8 A: I will describe the OUCC's support for the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement
9 ("Settlement Agreement"), entered into and filed on Thursday, July 19, 2018, by
10 and among Indianapolis Power & Light Company ("IPL" or "Company"), the
11 OUCC, IPL Industrial Group (Allison Transmission, Inc., Cargill, Inc., Eli Lilly
12 and Company, Indiana University Health, Ingredion, Inc., PepsiCo, Praxair
13 Surface Technologies, Inc. and Vertellus Integrated Pyridines LLC), ("Industrial
14 Group"), The Kroger Co., ("Kroger"), Wal-Mart Stores East, LP and Sam's East,
15 Inc. (collectively "Walmart"), Rolls-Royce Corporation, University of
16 Indianapolis, City of Lawrence, and Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Inc.
17 ("CAC"), Indiana Coalition for Human Services, Indiana Community Action
18 Association, Inc., and Sierra Club ("Joint Intervenor Group") (collectively the
19 "Settling Parties" and individually "Settling Party"). If approved, the Settlement
20 Agreement will provide certainty regarding critical issues, including revenue

1 requirements, authorized return, and the allocation of IPL's revenue requirement
2 among its various rate classes.

3 **Q: Does the Settlement Agreement balance the interests of IPL and ratepayers?**

4 A: Yes. The Settlement Agreement is a product of intense negotiations, with each
5 party offering compromise to challenging issues. The nature of compromise
6 includes assessing the litigation risk that the tribunal will find the other side's case
7 more compelling. While the Settlement Agreement represents a balance of all
8 interests, given the number of benefits provided to ratepayers as outlined in the
9 Settlement Agreement and described below, the OUCC, as the statutory
10 representative of all ratepayers, believes the Settlement Agreement is a fair
11 resolution, supported by evidence and should be approved.

II. RATEPAYER BENEFITS OF SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

12 **Q: As result of the Settlement Agreement, will IPL's base rates be designed to**
13 **reflect a lower revenue requirement than IPL proposed in its case-in-chief**
14 **filing?**

15 A: Yes. The Settling Parties agreed to an annual basic rates revenue requirement
16 increase of \$43.877 million,¹ which is an approximate \$80.614 million reduction
17 from IPL's as-filed requested basic rates revenue requirement increase of
18 \$124.491 million² (or 9.10%). As a result of the Settlement Agreement, the
19 system-wide revenue increase is 3.20%.³ This Settlement Agreement provision
20 reduces the rate impact for most all major classes from IPL's original proposal.

¹ Cause No. 45029, Settlement Agreement Attachment A, Line 8, Page 1 of 25.

² Cause No. 45029, IPL Financial Exhibit IPL-REVREQ, Schedule REVREQ1, Line 8 (IPL's Original Filing) filed December 21, 2017.

³ See Settlement Testimony of James L. Cutshaw, page 4, lines 11 and 18.

1 **Q: Does the lower revenue requirement take into account adjustments made to**
2 **IPL's filing following the passage of the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of**
3 **2017 ("TCJA")?**

4 A: Yes. As discussed later in my testimony, IPL's supplemental filing and the terms
5 of the Settlement Agreement account for the changes to the Company's revenue
6 requirement necessary to address the TCJA and the Indiana Utility Regulatory
7 Commission's ("Commission") related investigation.

8 **Q: What ratepayer benefits are included in the Settlement Agreement?**

9 A: Consumer benefits include: 1) no increase in the \$17.00 monthly residential
10 customer charge, as opposed to IPL's originally requested \$27.00 monthly
11 residential customer charge; 2) a 9.99 percent (%) authorized return on equity
12 ("ROE") compared to IPL's proposed increase to 10.32 percent; 3) eliminating
13 IPL's additional "fair value increment" request of approximately \$8.079 million⁴;
14 4) a \$35.9 million credit to customers via IPL's ECR; 5) resolving all issues
15 regarding the TCJA, 6) \$150,000 IPL contribution to the community action
16 program network of Indiana Community Action Association to facilitate low-
17 income weatherization in IPL's service territory; 7) IPL will implement a three-
18 year Low Income Arrearage Forgiveness Program Pilot (not to exceed \$650,000
19 over the life of the project) that will provide an opportunity for qualifying low
20 income customers to catch up on their bills; 8) IPL will implement and fund (up
21 to \$100,000) a "roundup" program pilot on a three-year pilot basis to address low
22 income bill affordability; and 9) additional benefits negotiated by the Settling
23 Parties. The cost of the commitments enumerated in items 6 through 8 above are

⁴ IPL Financial Exhibit IPL-REVREQ, Schedule REVREQ1-R, Line 12 (IPL's Rebuttal Filing) filed June 21, 2018.

1 not reflected in the agreed revenue deficiency in this Cause. Consumer benefits
2 are provided in more detail in my testimony below.

III. RETURN ON EQUITY

3 **Q: Please explain the ROE reduction component of the Settlement Agreement.**

4 A: IPL proposed a 10.32% ROE, as well as a fair value increment, and the OUCC,
5 Industrial Group, and other intervenors advocated for a considerably lower ROE
6 applied to the IPL's original cost rate base. As a result of the negotiations, a
7 compromise was reached, resulting in a 9.99% ROE and elimination of the fair
8 value increment.

9 **Q: Does the OUCC find the negotiated ROE reasonable and in the interest of**
10 **ratepayers?**

11 A: Yes. A lower ROE benefits ratepayers by reducing the return on rate base
12 reflected in rates that ratepayers must pay. The Settlement Agreement establishes
13 a balanced plan that is in the interest of both ratepayers and shareholders.

IV. CAPITAL STRUCTURE

14 **Q: Are there ratepayer benefits in the Settlement Agreement associated with the**
15 **capital structure?**

16 A: Yes. IPL will remove its fair value increment request from the calculation of its
17 revenue requirement and will use an original cost rate base, saving ratepayers
18 approximately \$11.08 million. In addition, the parties agreed to include a prepaid
19 pension asset, net of other post-employment benefits ("OPEB"), of \$95.9 million
20 in the capital structure. The \$95.9 million represents the \$89.3 million reflected
21 in the IPL Industrial Group witness Gorman testimony modified to include the
22 IPL supplemental employment retirement plan ("SERP"). The agreed to \$95.9
23 million is significantly less than the \$158.2 million prepaid pension asset, net of

1 OPEB, IPL originally proposed to include in the capital structure. The revenue
2 requirement impact of this adjustment is a reduction (savings to ratepayers) of
3 approximately \$3.61 million from IPL's rebuttal position.

V. TAX REFORM

4 **Q: Are there ratepayer benefits in the Settlement Agreement regarding the**
5 **impacts of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?**

6 A: Yes. The impacts of the TCJA lowered IPL's revenue requirement by
7 approximately \$28.9 million,⁵ as addressed in this Settlement Agreement.

8 1) A test year tax expense adjustment for the TCJA reduces IPL's
9 test year revenue requirement by approximately \$16.1 million,
10 exclusive of amortization of excess Accumulated Deferred
11 Income Taxes ("ADIT").

12 2) Normalized Excess ADIT created by the TCJA will be
13 amortized over the remaining life of the assets as required by
14 statute using the average rate assumption method ("ARAM").
15 Until the ARAM calculation is determined, the amortization
16 period will be on a straight-line basis over 25 years⁶. The
17 annual amortization is estimated to be \$4.0 million, which will
18 reduce IPL's test year revenue requirement by approximately
19 \$5.40 million.

20 3) Non-Normalized Excess ADIT created by the TCJA will be
21 amortized over approximately seven (7) years, for an annual
22 amortization and test year revenue requirement reduction of
23 \$7.3 million.⁷ This is a decrease from the 10 year amortization
24 period and \$6.2 million test year revenue deficiency proposed
25 by IPL in its supplemental testimony filed on February 16,
26 2018.

⁵ Cause No. 45029, IPL Verified Supplemental Testimony of Craig A. Forestal, Page 9, Line 15, indicated a \$27.8 million TCJA impact/reduction. The additional reduction to \$28.9 million is a result of the Settling Parties settling on a 7 year amortization period for non-normalized ADIT versus IPL's proposed 10 year amortization period provided in its supplemental testimony filed on February 16, 2018.

⁶ "Normalized" ADIT is calculated on a utility's physical assets, and the amortization of the excess must be over the remaining life of assets.

⁷ "Non-Normalized" ADIT is calculated on non-physical assets, and the amortization period for the excess is whatever period authorized by the Commission. The Settling Parties have agreed to a period of seven (7) years.

- 1 4) IPL will provide a \$14.3 million credit to customers in IPL's
2 ECR mechanism over a period of two years to reflect the
3 amortization of excess ADIT in 2018, prior to when new rates
4 go into effect. This credit reflects the 7 year amortization
5 period for the non-normalized excess ADIT.
- 6 5) Due to the impact of the TCJA on IPL's rates during the period
7 January 1, 2018 through the Order in this rate case, IPL will
8 provide a \$9.51 million credit to customers through IPL's
9 ECR-31 during the six month period commencing with the
10 September 2018 billing cycle and ending with the February
11 2019 billing cycle with any variance due to usage to be
12 reconciled in ECR-33.⁸
- 13 6) The Settling Parties agree that as set forth in this Settlement
14 Agreement, together with approval of the requested relief
15 sought in the Cause No. 43052 -S1 Settlement, the TCJA issues
16 are resolved.

VI. EXPENSE ADJUSTMENTS

17 **Q: Are there ratepayer benefits in the Settlement Agreement associated with**
18 **expense adjustments?**

19 A: Yes. Settling Parties agreed to adjustments to: 1) wages and benefits; 2) injuries
20 and damages; 3) rate case expense amortization; 4) NOx emission allowances; 5)
21 outage maintenance costs; 6) non-outage operating and maintenance costs for
22 MATS equipment; 7) vegetation management expense; and 8) depreciation
23 expense, further reducing IPL's revenue deficiency and providing savings to
24 ratepayers.

Wages and Benefits

25 Based on the testimonies of OUCC Witnesses Eckert and Stull, as well as
26 Industrial Group Witness Gorman, and the rebuttal testimony of IPL Witness
27 Coklow, wages and benefits expenses will be reduced by \$3.129 million to reflect
28

⁸ Cause No. 45032-S1, Stipulation and Settlement Agreement between IPL, Indiana Industrial Group, and the OUCC filed July 6, 2018.

1 organizational and structural changes resulting in the elimination of jobs,
2 increased pension expense and OPEB expense, and reduced wages and benefits
3 for open positions.

4 *Injuries and Damages*

5 Based on the testimony of OUCC Witness Eckert and the rebuttal testimony of
6 IPL Witness Forestal, injuries and damages expense will be reduced by \$0.711
7 million to include in the OUCC's view is a more representative amount of
8 contingent liability and be more reflective of the injuries and damages expense
9 IPL expects to incur in the future.

10 *Rate Case Expense Amortization*

11 In response to the testimony of OUCC Witness Ramaraj, and as reflected in the
12 rebuttal testimony of IPL Witness Forestal, amortization of rate case expense will
13 be reduced by \$0.673 million to reflect actual expense incurred through May 31,
14 2018 and IPL's current projections (at the time its rebuttal testimony was filed)
15 for the remaining costs.

16 *NOx Emission Allowance Expense*

17 As recommended by OUCC Witness Armstrong, IPL's NOx emission allowance
18 expense reflected in IPL's supplemental filing will be reduced by \$0.248 million
19 (\$149,000 of this amount was already addressed and reflected in IPL's rebuttal
20 testimony and schedules⁹).

⁹ Cause No. 45029, IPL Witness Dininger Rebuttal, Page 4, Lines 5-7.

1 Outage Maintenance Costs

2 In response to OUCC Witness Armstrong, IPL outage maintenance costs related
3 to Harding Street Station Generating Units will be reduced by \$3.138 million.
4 IPL Witness Scott supported an adjustment to outage and maintenance costs of
5 \$10.212 million in his direct testimony and rebuttal testimony. OUCC Witness
6 Armstrong recommended reducing IPL's proposed \$10.212 million adjustment by
7 \$6.280 million to reflect IPL's actual normalized pro forma year outage costs of
8 \$3.932 million. Settling Parties compromised on an adjustment of \$7.074 million
9 for outage and maintenance expenses. This is a savings to ratepayers of \$3.138
10 million when compared to IPL's proposed adjustment of \$10.212 million.

11 Non-Outage Operating and Maintenance ("O&M") Costs for MATS Equipment

12 In response to the position of OUCC Witness Armstrong, non-outage O&M costs
13 for the MATS equipment will be reduced by \$1.364 million. OUCC Witness
14 Armstrong recommended denial of IPL's proposed \$2.727 million adjustment for
15 MATS O&M expenses. For purposes of settlement, Settling Parties agreed on an
16 adjustment of \$1.364 million, reflecting only half of IPL's proposed increase.

17 Vegetation Management Expense

18 With regard to vegetation management expense, OUCC witness Hand
19 recommended denial of IPL's proposed \$8.156 million annual increase in
20 vegetation management costs. For purposes of settlement, Settling Parties
21 compromised on a \$6.896 million increase to vegetation management expense, for
22 a total \$11.0 million embedded in base rates. This is a reduction, and savings to

1 ratepayers, of \$1.260 million from IPL's originally proposed \$12.260 million
2 embedded vegetation management expense.

3 Additionally, IPL requested approval of a Vegetation Management
4 Reserve similar to the Major Storm Damage Restoration Reserve it currently has
5 in effect. OUCC Witness Blakley recommended denial of a Vegetation
6 Management Reserve, testifying that IPL management sets vegetation
7 management budgets and decides how much, when, and where money is spent
8 and therefore can be planned. This is unlike major storm expense where
9 management has no control of when, where, and how much money will need to be
10 spent. Witness Blakley further testified that the base rate revenue requirement
11 should provide enough resources for IPL to proactively manage this activity, and
12 therefore the use of asset/liability treatment on normal operating and expense
13 accounts should only occur in extreme unusual circumstances, not for vegetation
14 management which is a recurring part of IPL's operations. Although the
15 Company's proposed vegetation management reserve was not accepted as part of
16 the Settlement Agreement, Settling Parties compromised on IPL establishing a
17 Cap Mechanism for vegetation management costs, wherein IPL will defer any
18 shortfall in annual expenditures for vegetation management costs on its
19 distribution facilities relative to the amount embedded in base rates. This
20 mechanism will serve as a cap and no amounts spent above the embedded amount
21 on a cumulative basis will be deferred. At the time of the next base rate case, the
22 balance in this regulatory liability account will be amortized into cost of service
23 as a credit to ratepayers.

1 Furthermore, IPL agrees to provide, within its future annual vegetation
2 management report, outage investigation information showing the number of
3 outages caused by vegetation. In response to OUCC Witness Hand's testimony,
4 IPL will include the text of 170 IAC 4-9 in future annual reports as well.

5 *Depreciation Expense*

6 As part of settlement, IPL agreed to revise the depreciation rates for the Eagle
7 Valley Combined-Cycle Gas Turbine ("EV CCGT") accounts to reduce
8 depreciation expense reflected in IPL's rebuttal testimony by \$3.441 million.

VII. RATE BASE

9 **Q: Are there ratepayers benefits in the Settlement Agreement associated with**
10 **rate base?**

11 **A:** Yes. IPL will include a total of \$35.9 million as a credit to customers in the form
12 of a reduction in operating expenses reflected in the revenue requirements over
13 IPL's next four semiannual ECR filings following a Final Order approving the
14 Settlement Agreement.

15 Additionally, the Settling Parties agree that IPL's rate base in this Cause
16 will be decreased by \$28.939 million. This is approximately one-half of the net
17 difference between IPL Industrial Group's calculated additional accumulated
18 depreciation of \$106.719 million to IPL's production plant from July 1, 2017 to
19 April 30, 2018 and IPL's identified \$48.842 million of production plant additions
20 over the same period. The revenue requirement impact of this adjustment is a
21 reduction (savings to ratepayers) of approximately \$2.47 million.

VIII. RIDERS

1 **Q: What treatment for OSS margins did the Settling Parties agree to in IPL's**
2 **proposed OSS/CAP Rider?**

3 A: The Settling Parties agreed that the level of IPL's embedded base rate credit for
4 OSS margins will be \$16.324 million. This is a \$10 million increase to the OSS
5 margin base rate credit of \$6.324 million currently embedded and proposed by
6 IPL in its case-in-chief. The Settling Parties also agreed with IPL's case-in-chief
7 proposal (and unopposed by the OUCC in its case-in-chief) to share 100% of all
8 incremental OSS margins above or below (down to zero dollars) the \$16.324
9 million embedded base rate credit amount with its retail customers through IPL's
10 annual OSS mechanism.

11 **Q: What ratepayer benefits result from this type of OSS margins treatment?**

12 A: Ratepayers will now receive 100% of the margins (profits) that result from OSS.
13 From the OUCC's perspective, flowing through 100% of OSS margins is an
14 offset to ratepayers who are paying IPL's retail rates to support the operation and
15 maintenance expenses and provide a return of and a return on the assets that
16 support OSS. Ratepayers also pay rates that reflect the MISO administrative fees
17 that provide for MISO to administer OSS of IPL's excess generation. Given IPL's
18 participation in MISO, the OUCC believes it is no longer necessary to provide
19 IPL an incentive to maximize its OSS. Additionally, the increased embedded
20 OSS margin credit amount to \$16.324 million more closely reflects what IPL
21 anticipates its OSS margins will be now that Eagle Valley is in service.
22 Furthermore, this increased credit will help to mitigate the costs retail customers
23 pay through base rates.

1 **Q: What treatment for capacity sales did the Settling Parties agree to in IPL's**
2 **OSS/CAP Rider?**

3 A: The Settling Parties agreed with IPL's case-in-chief proposal (and unopposed by
4 the OUCC in its case-in-chief) to embed a \$11.288 million credit in base rates for
5 capacity sales revenues and credit its retail customers with 100% of all
6 incremental capacity sales revenues above the embedded amount through IPL's
7 annual CAP mechanism. Should capacity sales revenues fall below the embedded
8 base rate amount, customers will be charged (pay back) the difference between
9 actual capacity sales revenues that fall below the base level and the embedded
10 amount that customers received through base rates.¹⁰

11 **Q: What ratepayer benefits result from this type of capacity sales treatment?**

12 A: Ratepayers benefit from receiving 100% of all capacity sales profits which help to
13 mitigate the impact of rate increases faced by IPL customers in base rate cases
14 and its various tracker mechanisms.

IX. VARIOUS CUSTOMER PROGRAMS

15 **Q: Are there ratepayer benefits that come from IPL agreeing to implement and**
16 **fund certain customer programs?**

17 A: Yes. IPL has agreed to implement and fund the following programs for
18 qualifying customers:

- 19 1) A three (3) year Low Income Arrearage Forgiveness Pilot
20 Program will provide an opportunity for low income customers
21 to catch up on their electric bills, not to exceed \$650,000;
- 22 2) IPL will provide a \$150,000 contribution to the community
23 action program network of Indiana Community Action

¹⁰ Ratepayers receive 100% of all capacity sales revenues, however in this example actual capacity sales revenues fell below the amount embedded in base rates and therefore customers must "pay back" the difference.

- 1 Association, to facilitate low-income weatherization in IPL's
2 service territory;
- 3 3) IPL will provide \$100,000 to fund and implement a "roundup"
4 program pilot on a three-year pilot basis to address low income
5 bill affordability;
- 6 4) IPL will modify its customer bill within 60 days of a final order
7 in this case to reflect customer charges on residential customer
8 bills;
- 9 5) In its next basic rate case, IPL will provide its residential
10 customers with notice and a description of any proposed
11 change to the fixed customer charge;
- 12 6) Customers operating qualifying self-generation units, and
13 agreeing to certain conditions, will benefit from a new
14 agreement regarding back-up and maintenance power;
- 15 7) IPL agreed to prepare two separate cost of service studies for
16 its next base rate case, one which separately allocates costs to
17 low load factor commercial and industrial customers as well as
18 a proposed rate structure to recover those allocated costs, and
19 one which does not separately allocate those costs to low load
20 factor customers. This will allow IPL, and other parties, to
21 better analyze the impact of creating a low load factor rate for
22 commercial and industrial customers;
- 23 8) Kroger benefits from IPL's commitment to meet quarterly for
24 the 18 months subsequent to this Settlement Agreement to
25 review service levels and reliability;
- 26 9) Royce Corporation ("RRC") benefits from IPL's commitment
27 to amend and extend the terms of the two existing Rate SS
28 Agreements between IPL and RRC for a standard three year
29 term commencing on July 28, 2019;
- 30 10) The University of Indianapolis benefits from IPL's
31 commitment to work with the University of Indianapolis on a
32 mutually-agreeable energy efficient street light conversion
33 program for the University of Indianapolis; and
- 34 11) The City of Lawrence benefits from IPL's agreement to
35 provide GIS mapping data that identifies the location and type
36 of fixture of all Company-owned streetlights located within the
37 City of Lawrence and to work with the City of Lawrence to

1 determine 1) the feasibility of providing the City of Lawrence
2 with consolidated billing and account information, including
3 putting all streetlights onto a single consolidated bill; and 2) the
4 costs and feasibility of the City of Lawrence participating in
5 the bulk purchasing savings generated from IPL's LED
6 conversion program with the City of Indianapolis LED
7 Conversion Project.

8 12) IPL agrees to reconvene the Local Green Power Advisory
9 Committee for a minimum of two meetings within six months
10 of receiving a Final Order approving the Settlement Agreement
11 in this Cause and will work in good faith with this Committee
12 to develop a community solar pilot proposal within one year.
13 The meetings with the Local Green Power Advisory
14 Committee will be open to all interested stakeholders.

X. COST OF SERVICE STUDY/RATE DESIGN

15 **Q: Please explain how the Settlement Agreement's revenue allocation was**
16 **determined.**

17 A: The Settling Parties spent significant time negotiating a fair and reasonable
18 revenue class allocation to allocate the costs of service among all rate classes.
19 The agreed allocation is without reference to any specific cost allocation
20 methodology, and was determined strictly for settlement purposes. I discussed
21 the Settlement Agreement allocation with OUCC staff experts and we concluded
22 it is a fair compromise.

23 **Q: What settlement considerations were important to the OUCC in regard to**
24 **the revenue allocation?**

25 A: The OUCC was especially concerned about revenue allocation and any resulting
26 rate increase to the residential and commercial customers. It was important to the
27 OUCC to keep customer class rate increases reasonably close to the system-wide
28 increase of 3.20%.

1 **Q: Does the Settlement Agreement include a modification to the monthly**
2 **residential customer charge?**

3 A: Yes. As part of the comprehensive settlement package, the Settling Parties
4 reached a compromise on the residential customer charge. Originally IPL
5 proposed a 59% or \$10.00 increase (\$17.00 to \$27.00) in the higher of IPL's two
6 residential customer charges, customers consuming more than 325 kWh per
7 month. The proposed increase in the residential customer charge was a recurring
8 theme of ratepayers testifying at the field hearings and in the submission of
9 written comments. The issue was addressed in testimony of the OUCC and other
10 intervenors in this Cause. The residential customer charge was the subject of
11 intense negotiations. Through compromise, Settling Parties agreed to a residential
12 customer charge of \$17.00 - no increase from the current charge. The lower of
13 IPL's two customer charges, for customers consuming 325 kWh or less per
14 month, was raised from \$11.25 to \$12.50 in the Settlement Agreement, but the
15 effect of that increase was reduced through a reduction in the magnitude of the
16 first "block" of electricity in IPL's "declining block" rate structure relative to the
17 other "blocks" in that structure.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

18 **Q: What is the OUCC recommendation to the Commission?**

19 A: The OUCC recommends the Commission find the unopposed Settlement
20 Agreement to be in the public interest and approve it in its entirety.

21 **Q: Does this conclude your testimony?**

22 A: Yes.

APPENDIX A

1 **Q: Please summarize your professional background and experience.**

2 A: I graduated from Indiana University, Indianapolis, with a Bachelor of Science
3 degree in Business, majoring in Accounting, Finance, and International Studies. I
4 became Director of the OUCC's Electric Division in August 2017. Prior to that I
5 was Assistant Director (February 2017-August 2017), Senior Utility Analyst
6 (2011-2017) and Utility Analyst II (2006-2011), all within the OUCC's Electric
7 Division. I began my regulatory career with the OUCC in 2003 as a Utility
8 Analyst in the Electric Division. I attended "Practical Skills for the Changing
9 Electric and Gas Industries," sponsored by the National Association of Regulatory
10 Utility Commissioners ("NARUC") and the New Mexico State University Center
11 for Public Utilities, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I also attended the 2003
12 Annual Regulatory Studies Program sponsored by NARUC and the Institute of
13 Public Utilities at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan, and the
14 37th Annual Eastern NARUC Utility Rate School sponsored by NARUC and the
15 Institute of Public Utilities at Michigan State University in Clearwater, Florida.

16 **Q: Please describe your duties and responsibilities at the OUCC.**

17 A: I supervise staff within the OUCC Electric Division. I also review Indiana
18 electric utilities' requests for regulatory relief filed with the Commission. When
19 necessary, I prepare and present testimony based on the results of my analysis and
20 make recommendations to the Commission on behalf of Indiana electric utility
21 consumers.

22 **Q: Have you previously testified before the Commission?**

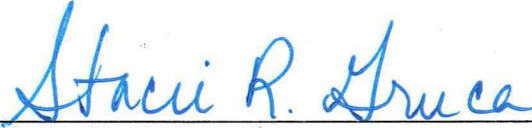
23 A: Yes.

1 **Q: Please describe the examination and analysis you conducted in order to**
2 **prepare your testimony and schedules in this Cause.**

3 A: I read IPL's petition, prefiled testimony, and responses to the Commission's
4 docket entry with respect to the tax reform impact. In addition, I reviewed certain
5 IPL attachments and workpapers. I read the OUCC's and Intervenors' prefiled
6 testimony, participated in conference calls with IPL Staff, and reviewed various
7 responses to data requests. Furthermore, I participated in settlement discussions
8 with Settling Parties and reviewed the Settlement Agreement filed before the
9 Commission on Thursday, July 19, 2018.

AFFIRMATION

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true.



Stacie R. Gruca
Electric Division Director
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

July 23, 2018

Date

Cause No. 45029
Indianapolis Power & Light Co.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing *OUC* *Testimony and Exhibits* have been served upon the following counsel of record in the captioned proceeding by electronic service on July 23, 2018.

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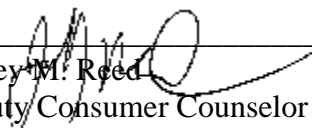
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