

**FILED**  
September 27, 2023  
INDIANA UTILITY  
REGULATORY COMMISSION

**STATE OF INDIANA**

**INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION OF ELLETTSVILLE )  
MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY FOR A ) CAUSE NO. 45900-U  
NEW SCHEDULE OF RATES AND )  
CHARGES FOR WATER SERVICE )**

**PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. 3**

**TESTIMONY OF SHAWN DELLINGER**

**ON BEHALF OF**

**THE INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR**

**September 27, 2023**

**TESTIMONY OF OUCC WITNESS SHAWN DELLINGER**  
**CAUSE NO. 45900-U**  
**ELLETTSVILLE MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

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

2 A: My name is Shawn Dellinger, and my business address is 115 W. Washington St., Suite  
3 1500 South, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

4 **Q: By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

5 A: I am employed by the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (“OUCC”) as a Senior  
6 Utility Analyst, primarily in the Water/Wastewater division. My focus is on financing and  
7 other financial matters. Appendix A describes my background, education, and experience.

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

9 A: My testimony discusses existing and future debt expense of Ellettsville Municipal Water  
10 Utility (“Ellettsville Water” or “Applicant”) based on its Application submitted on May  
11 31, 2023. Applicant proposes to implement an across-the-board rate increase of 33.4% to  
12 generate an additional \$695,898 of revenues including new debt expense of \$227,247. I  
13 discuss and explain the OUCC’s proposal to allow a second phase (Phase 2) of this case to  
14 allow for a debt service revenue requirement once allocated debt service costs can be  
15 reasonably determined. OUCC Witness Jason Compton incorporated these proposals into  
16 the OUCC’s accounting schedules, and OUCC witness Kristen Willoughby discusses the  
17 appropriate cost allocations and what information Ellettsville should provide to implement  
18 Phase 2 rates.

19 **Q: What did you do to form the opinions in your testimony?**

20 A: I reviewed the Application, I prepared and reviewed informal discovery, and I had

1 discussions with the representatives of the Ellettsville Water Utility and its consultants for  
2 this case.

## II. EXISTING DEBT

3 **Q: Please describe Ellettsville Water's existing debt.**

4 A: Ellettsville Water currently has debt obligation on bonds issued in 2016, for which it has  
5 requested a debt service revenue requirement of \$158,805.<sup>1</sup> According to the amortization  
6 table for this debt that Applicant provided to the OUCC (OUCC Attachment SD-1), the  
7 average payment for years 2024 through 2028 is \$159,245.<sup>2</sup>

8 **Q: What will the balance and payments be for the existing debt at the end of the life of**  
9 **these rates?**

10 A: Ellettsville indicated in its application that for purposes of debt service requirements, the  
11 life of rates should be considered five years. As of January 2, 2029, the balance will be  
12 \$245,000. The remaining payments will be \$166,150 in bond year 2029 and \$86,275 for  
13 the final payment on July 1, 2030, for a total of \$252,425.

14 **Q: Is there a debt service reserve that will be available to make payments on the existing**  
15 **debt?**

16 A: Yes. According to Schedule 10 of the Application, the debt service reserve has a current  
17 balance of \$171,046, which may be applied to the currently existing debt. Because this  
18 reserve may be used to make the last year's payment on the debt (in this case, \$168,750,  
19 which also provides \$2,296 in cash to either pay existing debt, new debt, or for other

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<sup>1</sup> Ellettsville Water refers to these bonds as 2015 bonds in its application, but the amortization tables refer to these bonds as Waterworks revenue bonds of 2016. These two dates are referring to the same debt, and the semantics of what to call it is not a concern.

<sup>2</sup> Payments of \$158,250 in 2024, \$160,500 in 2025, \$157,568.80 in 2026 and \$159,331.25 in 2027 and \$160,575 in 2028. This results in an average payment of \$159,245.00.

1 purposes), actual net expenses will be \$81,379 for this debt after the five year life of rates.<sup>3</sup>

2 Broadly, this means there will only be approximately 6 months' worth of payments left on  
3 this debt at the end of the expected life of these rates.

4 **Q: Should Ellettsville Water continue to collect a revenue requirement for this debt once**  
5 **it is repaid in full?**

6 A: No. Continuing to collect a revenue requirement for debt service payments once the debt  
7 is paid in full is not consistent the goal of balancing costs and revenues. Once the final  
8 payment is made on the 2016 Bonds, the debt service costs on this debt will be eliminated,  
9 resulting in revenues exceeding costs. The depletion of the existing debt service reserve  
10 would cause the debt to be paid in full around July of 2029, which is approximately six  
11 months after the end of the anticipated life of rates. Therefore, I recommend the  
12 Commission require Ellettsville Water to amend its tariff by August 30, 2029 to eliminate  
13 the debt service revenue requirement for the existing debt.

### **III. PROPOSED ALLOCATED DEBT SERVICE AND PHASE 2 RATES.**

14 **Q: Why Is Ellettsville seeking a revenue requirement for debt service?**

15 A: Ellettsville's Municipal Sewage Works plans to issue new debt to fund the construction of  
16 a new maintenance facility that will be used by Ellettsville Water, Ellettsville's Municipal  
17 Sewage Works, and other Ellettsville municipal departments. The debt issuance is  
18 anticipated to be procured on the open market in an estimated amount of \$4,720,000 to be  
19 amortized over 20 years at an assumed 5% interest rate. There is also the assumption that  
20 a debt service reserve will be required and will be funded in five years. Although it is not

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<sup>3</sup> \$252,425 total payments after January 2, 2029, less \$171,046 total balance of the debt service reserve, results in \$81,379 in required payments. Any interest accumulated on the debt service reserve balances may further reduce the final payment.

1           itself borrowing the funds, Ellettsville Water intends to pay 50% of the debt service on the  
2           Municipal Sewage Works's debt. Ellettsville Water requests in this cause a revenue  
3           requirement for that allocated debt service.

4   **Q:   Does Ellettsville Water seek borrowing authority?**

5   A:   No. The water utilities assets will not be encumbered, and the water utility is not directly  
6           borrowing the money, making it unnecessary to authorize Ellettsville Water any borrowing  
7           authority.

8   **Q:   Should Ellettsville be authorized rates to pay for the debt service on this borrowing**  
9           **upon the issuance of the order in this case?**

10  A:   Not at this time. As discussed by OUCC witness Kristen Willoughby, Applicant has not  
11           adequately supported a revenue requirement related to the financing or construction of the  
12           maintenance facility. In lieu of simply recommending disallowance of recovery of any  
13           costs, and to avoid the delay and cost of Applicant having to file a new rate case, the OUCC  
14           recommends the maintenance facility revenue requirement be determined in a subsequent  
15           phase of this small utility rate increase. This will allow Ellettsville to present support for  
16           recovery of reasonable costs associated with the borrowing to construct the maintenance  
17           facility.

18  **Q:   When will that next Phase commence?**

19  A:   Once Ellettsville has procured an architect's estimate of the costs of constructing a shared  
20           maintenance facility, Ellettsville should be permitted to make a filing to establish what the  
21           cost of the maintenance facility will be and the estimated debt service costs. The  
22           Commission also should consider whether the terms of the underlying loan to the municipal  
23           sewer utility are reasonable for purposes of determining whether Ellettsville Water should  
24           be allocated a portion of that cost for ratemaking purposes. To that end, the OUCC should

1 be permitted some time to review the filing and make a recommendation to the  
2 Commission regarding the foregoing. Thereafter, Phase 2 rates should be implemented no  
3 sooner than 30 days prior to the closing on the loan, as discussed by OUCC witness Jason  
4 Compton.

5 **Q: Do you consider the current terms of the loan as estimated by Ellettsville Water to be**  
6 **reasonable?**

7 A: I would tend to agree that a 20-year term is appropriate, although if a longer term is  
8 available, I would encourage the sewer utility to explore that option. Aligning the term of  
9 the debt with the life of the asset is best practice, and a new building will clearly have a  
10 useful life of more than 20 years. I would also encourage the sewer utility to explore the  
11 potential of borrowing from the State Revolving Fund. Although if it is determined that  
12 borrowing on the open market, as currently anticipated, is the best course of action I would  
13 accept this method of borrowing. As to the 5% interest rate, I consider that may be  
14 somewhat low for an open market borrowing. It is also important to point out that a debt  
15 service reserve payment is incorporated into this debt service revenue requirement, which  
16 may or may not be required in an open market transaction.

17 **Q: What rate impact will the new debt have on Phase 1 revenue requirements of this**  
18 **cause?**

19 A: The new debt will have no effect on Phase 1 rates. This is advantageous for the reasons I  
20 gave above, and it also responds to some customer comments requesting a phasing in of  
21 the proposed rate increase.

22 **Q: Would there be affordability concerns with this revenue requirement?**

23 A: Additional expenses (whether a new facility, a refurbishment of the existing facility, or  
24 some other option) will affect affordability, but based on the information available to the  
25 OUCC at the present time, fairly allocating to Ellettsville Water the costs of procuring a

1 maintenance facility strikes a reasonable balance. Moreover, as a condition of this process,  
2 it should be understood that the Phase 2 rate increase may not exceed the revenue  
3 requirement for this expense as presented by Ellettsville in its application.

#### IV. TRUE-UP AND OTHER ISSUES

4 **Q: What steps will be necessary to implement Phase 2 rates incorporating the costs for**  
5 **the new maintenance facility?**

6 A: OUCC Witness Kristen Willoughby discusses the required filings regarding the new  
7 maintenance facility to establish Phase 2 rates, which would be implemented no sooner  
8 than thirty (30) days in advance of the closing on the borrowing. Within thirty (30) days  
9 after the sewer utility has closed on the debt, Ellettsville Water should file a true-up report  
10 establishing the actual debt service costs.

11 **Q: What information would need to be submitted as part of the true-up process?**

12 A: When the Ellettsville Municipal Sewage Works has closed on the debt, Ellettsville  
13 Water should file a true-up report so the Applicant can institute proper new rates  
14 incorporating that debt. Within 30 days after closing on the loan, rates should be trued-  
15 up to actual costs. Ellettsville Water should state the interest rate, total amount  
16 borrowed, terms of the loan and debt service reserve requirements. It should also  
17 indicate, with support as available, all fees and charges paid for with the borrowed  
18 funds. I also recommend that the OUCC be provided 21 days to review the true-up  
19 filing and respond with its analysis and recommendations to the Commission.

1 Applicant should have the same 21 days to respond to any concerns raised by the  
2 OUCC.

3 **Q: What process should be implemented to ensure revenues align with costs once debt**  
4 **costs decrease?**

5 A: As discussed above, the existing debt will be paid off in June of 2030, and due to the  
6 utilization of the debt service reserve, no payments will need to be made from current  
7 revenues after approximately June of 2029, or six months after the end of the life of these  
8 rates (given as five years by Applicant). Any required debt service reserve on the  
9 Municipal Sewer Utility's debt might also be fully funded at about that time (five years  
10 from the closing of the debt). If so, it may be administratively efficient for Ellettsville  
11 Water to make a single filing once both of these debts no longer require current revenues  
12 to fund (i.e. once the remaining payments on the existing debt may be made in their entirety  
13 from the debt service reserve balance and once the debt service reserve for the sewer  
14 utilities debt on the new maintenance facility is fully funded). This is estimated to be in  
15 approximately July of 2029. A filing should be made within 30 days of this event, reducing  
16 the revenue requirement by an appropriate amount at that time.

## V. CUSTOMER COMMENTS

17 **Q: Were any customer comments provided to the OUCC regarding this cause?**

18 A: Yes. Those comments are compiled as OUCC Attachment SD-2.

19 **Q: Are there any issues related to the Consumer Comments that you would like to**  
20 **specifically bring to the attention of the Commission and the Utility?**

21 A: I would like to highlight two specific concerns that were raised.

22 1. The website should be updated more consistently.

23 2. Information on planned outages should be shared with the community.



1           There was concern expressed by some consumers regarding high fixed or minimum  
2           charges. I would encourage Ellettsville to read these comments and respond to the  
3           individual customers and address their concerns, as they are able.

**VI. OUCC RECOMMENDATIONS**

4   **Q:   Please summarize your recommendations to the Commission in this cause.**

5   A:   First, I recommend the Commission approve a Debt Service Revenue Requirement of  
6       \$159,245 in Phase 1 and 2 for existing debt. Second, I recommend the Commission include  
7       a true-up process for implementation of Phase 2 rates, consistent with my testimony above.

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

9   A:   Yes.

**Appendix A**

1 **Q: Please describe your educational background.**

2 A: I graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Biology, a minor in Economics and  
3 a certificate from the Liberal Arts and Management Program (LAMP) which is an honors  
4 certificate program through the Kelley School of Business and the College of Arts and  
5 Sciences, at the time restricted to twenty-five (25) students per year. I received my MBA  
6 from Indiana University with a concentration in finance. I am a member of Phi Beta Kappa  
7 honor society for my undergraduate work and Beta Gamma Sigma honor society for my  
8 master's program.

9 **Q: Please describe your work experience.**

10 A: My first jobs after graduating with my undergraduate degree were in New York in finance  
11 at Grant's Interest Rate Observer, which is a financial newsletter and Lebenthal and Co.,  
12 which was a municipal bond brokerage. I worked at and ultimately owned RCI Sales in  
13 Indianapolis, which was a manufacturer representative/distributor in commercial and  
14 institutional plumbing, for a number of years, leaving when I sold the company and merged  
15 it into a competitor. After receiving my MBA, I worked at Amazon as a financial analyst  
16 in their fulfillment division.

17 **Q: How long have you been at the OUCC?**

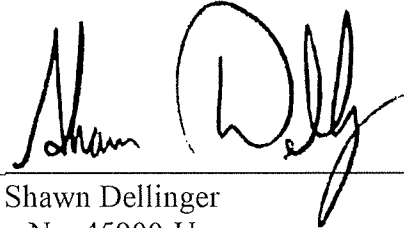
18 A: I started at the OUCC in the Water/Wastewater Division in December of 2019 as a Utility  
19 Analyst II, I was promoted to a Senior Utility Analyst in May of 2022. My focus is financial  
20 issues, such as ROE's, Capital Structures, etc.

21 **Q: Have you previously testified before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**  
22 **("Commission")?**

23 A: Yes, I have testified before the commission regarding various aspects of finance.

**AFFIRMATION**

I affirm the representations I made in the foregoing testimony are true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Dellinger", written over a horizontal line.

By: Shawn Dellinger  
Cause No. 45900-U  
Office of Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC)

Date: September 27, 2023

TOWN OF ELLETTSVILLE, INDIANA

SCHEDULE OF AMORTIZATION OF \$1,715,000 PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF  
WATERWORKS REVENUE BONDS OF 2016

Principal payable semiannually on January 1st and July 1st, beginning January 1, 2018.

Interest payable semiannually on January 1st and July 1st, beginning July 1, 2016.

Interest rates as indicated.

Bonds dated June 15, 2016.

Payment Date	Principal Balance (-----In \$1000's-----)	Principal Principal	Interest Rate(s) (%)	Interest	Total	Budget Year Total
07/01/16	\$1,715			\$1,676.11	\$1,676.11	
01/01/17	1,715			18,856.25	18,856.25	\$20,532.36
07/01/17	1,715			18,856.25	18,856.25	
01/01/18	1,715	\$5 (1)	1.250	18,856.25	23,856.25	42,712.50
07/01/18	1,710	60 (1)	1.250	18,825.00	78,825.00	
01/01/19	1,650	60 (1)	1.250	18,450.00	78,450.00	157,275.00
07/01/19	1,590	60 (1)	1.250	18,075.00	78,075.00	
01/01/20	1,530	60	2.000	17,700.00	77,700.00	155,775.00
07/01/20	1,470	60	2.000	17,100.00	77,100.00	
01/01/21	1,410	65	2.000	16,500.00	81,500.00	158,600.00
07/01/21	1,345	65	2.000	15,850.00	80,850.00	
01/01/22	1,280	65 (2)	2.000	15,200.00	80,200.00	161,050.00
07/01/22	1,215	65 (2)	2.000	14,550.00	79,550.00	
01/01/23	1,150	65 (3)	2.000	13,900.00	78,900.00	158,450.00
07/01/23	1,085	65 (3)	2.000	13,250.00	78,250.00	
01/01/24	1,020	65 (4)	2.000	12,600.00	77,600.00	155,850.00
07/01/24	955	65 (4)	2.000	11,950.00	76,950.00	
01/01/25	890	70 (5)	2.000	11,300.00	81,300.00	158,250.00
07/01/25	820	70 (5)	2.000	10,600.00	80,600.00	
01/01/26	750	70 (6)	2.125	9,900.00	79,900.00	160,500.00
07/01/26	680	70 (6)	2.125	9,156.25	79,156.25	
01/01/27	610	70 (7)	2.375	8,412.50	78,412.50	157,568.75
07/01/27	540	70 (7)	2.375	7,581.25	77,581.25	
01/01/28	470	75 (8)	2.600	6,750.00	81,750.00	159,331.25
07/01/28	395	75 (8)	2.600	5,775.00	80,775.00	
01/01/29	320	75 (9)	3.000	4,800.00	79,800.00	160,575.00
07/01/29	245	80 (9)	3.000	3,675.00	83,675.00	
01/01/30	165	80 (10)	3.000	2,475.00	82,475.00	166,150.00
07/01/30	85	85 (10)	3.000	1,275.00	86,275.00	86,275.00
Totals		<u>\$1,715</u>		<u>\$343,894.86</u>	<u>\$2,058,894.86</u>	<u>\$2,058,894.86</u>

- (1) Represents \$185,000 term bond due July 1, 2019
- (2) Represents \$130,000 term bond due July 1, 2022
- (3) Represents \$130,000 term bond due July 1, 2023
- (4) Represents \$130,000 term bond due July 1, 2024
- (5) Represents \$140,000 term bond due July 1, 2025

- (6) Represents \$140,000 term bond due July 1, 2026
- (7) Represents \$140,000 term bond due July 1, 2027
- (8) Represents \$150,000 term bond due July 1, 2028
- (9) Represents \$155,000 term bond due July 1, 2029
- (10) Represents \$165,000 term bond due July 1, 2030

EXHIBIT A

Designation: Waterworks Revenue Bonds of 2016 ("Bonds")  
Total issue: \$1,715,000  
Originally dated: June 15, 2016  
Denominations: \$5,000 or any integral multiple thereof  
Maturities and Interest Rates: On the dates and in the amounts and at the interest rates, payable semiannually on January 1 and July 1 of each year, commencing on July 1, 2016, as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Interest Rate</u>
07/01/19	\$185,000	1.25%
01/01/20	60,000	2.00
07/01/20	60,000	2.00
01/01/21	65,000	2.00
07/01/21	65,000	2.00
07/01/22	130,000	2.00
07/01/23	130,000	2.00
07/01/24	130,000	2.00
07/01/25	140,000	2.00
07/01/26	140,000	2.125
07/01/27	140,000	2.375
07/01/28	150,000	2.60
07/01/29	155,000	3.00
07/01/30	165,000	3.00

The Bonds maturing on July 1, 2019 and July 1, 2022 through and including July 1, 2030, are subject to mandatory sinking fund redemption prior to maturity, at a redemption price equal to the principal amount thereof plus accrued interest, on the dates and in the amounts set forth below:

<u>2019 Term Bond</u>		<u>2022 Term Bond</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/01/18	\$5,000	01/01/22	\$65,000
07/01/18	60,000	07/01/22*	65,000
01/01/19	60,000		
07/01/19*	60,000		

<u>2023 Term Bond</u>		<u>2024 Term Bond</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/01/23	\$65,000	01/01/24	\$65,000
07/01/23*	65,000	07/01/24*	65,000

<u>2025 Term Bond</u>		<u>2026 Term Bond</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/01/25	\$70,000	01/01/26	\$70,000
07/01/25*	70,000	07/01/26*	70,000

<u>2027 Term Bond</u>		<u>2028 Term Bond</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/01/27	\$70,000	01/01/28	\$75,000
07/01/27*	70,000	07/01/28*	75,000

<u>2029 Term Bond</u>		<u>2030 Term Bond</u>	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
01/01/29	\$75,000	01/01/30	\$80,000
07/01/29*	80,000	07/01/30*	85,000

\*Final maturity

**From:** [Nicholas Brehl](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ellettsville Indiana Water Utility Rate Increase  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 4, 2023 6:27:03 AM

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Indiana's OUCC,

My name is Nicholas Brehl and I live at 3820 W. State Road 46 Bloomington, IN 47404. Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility provides water and sewer service at my property. I do not have a case number to reference for this request.

I received a letter stating that Ellettsville Water Utilities filed an application with the IURC to increase water rates by 33.4% "across the board" to customers. This filing was apparently made on 5/31/2023.

I want to express my concern about this application because the rate of increase is excessively high and appears to be out of step with rates of increase implemented by other utilities and businesses. 33.4% is a remarkable increase that will add financial stress to many families in our community. I fully understand that costs must incrementally increase overtime, but this jump is out of proportion and seemingly unjust, especially for a service so essential as drinking water.

As a consumer, I want to express my concern that Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility has not communicated their plans to the community in a transparent manner or provided an explanation for their actions. Before writing this email, I decided to research the proposed rate increase to understand if the increase was tied to a dramatic expansion or improvement in utility services. I navigated to the Town of Ellettsville's website. The website for Ellettsville Water Utilities has been neglected for years. The document entitled "Press Release in Regard to Increase in Water Rates" was published on July 1, 2021. The next link on the webpage titled "Legal Notice of Filing for a Change in Water Rates" was published 8/17/2017. Consumers are left with no information or justification on this matter. If this matter was ever discussed by Town Council or other regulatory bodies in the municipality it is unknown because the Town Council does not publish meeting minutes on their website for the community to read.

I would also mention that the rate of increase isn't tied to exceptional service by the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. On June 1st 2023, my family lost all water service without any notice. I had to walk down the street and find an Ellettsville Water Utility worker to ask what the problem was. Apparently this was a planned outage tied to a new construction process at an adjacent property. We were *never* notified of this work ahead of time.

The Ellettsville Water Utility worker said we wouldn't have water for two hours. Then, they told **me** that **I** should walk the neighborhood and tell all the other neighbors. The water was off for twice as long as predicted which made cooking and caring for my toddlers quite difficult. The utility did not provide any instructions about water quality following the work so we were left to assume everything was safe.

In summary, I would encourage the Indiana OUCC to dedicate sufficient time and resources to review Ellettsville's Water Utility rate increase filed on May 31, 2023. I feel a rate increase of

33.4% is excessive and will cause a significant burden to lower to medium income families in the community. I believe that a more moderate approach should be taken with incrementally increasing rates that allow families to adjust their finances over several years. Lastly, I believe that with such an excessive increase in rates, the utility should be responsible for being transparent with the community and being dedicated to providing exceptional service, neither of which they are achieving.

Best Regards,

Nicholas Brehl



**From:** [Bob & Barb Tamillo](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Water Rat Increase  
**Date:** Friday, June 2, 2023 12:55:18 PM

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I am writing in protest of the requested water rate increase made by the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility, Ellettsville IN. Their proposed rate hike of 33.4% is outrageous. There is no justification for this exorbitant amount and there should be a hearing to explain such and/or the request should be *denied* by the Utility Regulatory Commission until justification can be determined.

Yes, I am aware of the rising cost(s) of just about everything that is going on today, but to increase the water rates for this community by one-third is a gouging tactic and an insult to its customers. Please do not allow this rate increase to go into effect.

Thank you.

Bob Tamillo  
6600 N. Rhinestone Dr.  
Ellettsville IN 47429

**From:** [Martin, Sandra L](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ellettsville Utilities  
**Date:** Monday, June 5, 2023 10:46:53 AM  
**Attachments:** [Ellettsville Utilities.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Sandra Martin and I'm a concerned customer of the Ellettsville Utilities Company (which is located at 1150 W. Guy McCown Drive, Ellettsville, IN 47429). I just received notification they have submitted a proposal to increase the water utility by 33.4%. This is a ridiculous increase. It is expensive enough to pay for Ellettsville's water/sewer as it is. Please see the attached document which was included in my current utility bill. This document does not include the IURC cause number (how convenient) nor any explanation of the reason(s) for the massive increase. Why are they not required to provide a written explanation of this major increase to all customers? This increase will be a burden for many families. The town of Ellettsville seems to do whatever they please (and get away with it) before residents are even aware of what is happening. This is very concerning.

Best Regards,

Sandra (Sandy) Martin

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED INCREASE IN WATER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE  
ELLETTSVILLE (INDIANA) MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

Notice is hereby given that the Ellettsville (Indiana) Municipal Water Utility (the "Water Utility") did on May 31, 2023, file an Application with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) to increase the water rates charged to customers of the Water Utility.

This Application was filed pursuant to Ind. Code 8-1-2-61.5 without the necessary cost of an IURC hearing; however, a public hearing before the IURC may be held if a 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 requests a formal public hearing. A written, signed request for a formal hearing must be submitted to the Secretary of the Commission, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, 101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204 and must be received by the IURC within forty (40) days after the date the Application was filed with the IURC and declared complete. In addition, a public hearing may be held if requested by the Utility Consumer Counselor (OUCC).

The proposed increase in the water rate requested by the application is approximately 33.4% and is proposed to be an "across-the-board" increase.

In the absence of a written request as described above, there likely will be no hearing conducted by the IURC on this Application. However, this will not decrease the standard of review by either the OUCC or the IURC. While the small utility filing procedure reduces time and expenses for the filing utility, the utility must still make its case in writing and has the same burden of proof that is required in any IURC rate case. The OUCC will assign a team of legal and technical staff to review the utility's request. Further, utility customers may send comments to the OUCC for inclusion in the formal case record. The OUCC accepts comments through its website at [www.in.gov/OUCC/2361.htm](http://www.in.gov/OUCC/2361.htm) or by e-mail at [uccinfo@OUCC.in.gov](mailto:uccinfo@OUCC.in.gov).

**From:** [Carla Miller](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Increase in Water Rates for Ellettsville, IN  
**Date:** Friday, June 9, 2023 3:19:16 PM

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Dear Utility Regulatory Commission:

I received notice that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility has requested to raise the water rate by 33.4% across the board. No justification for this substantial increase was provided. The size of this increase is (truthfully) outrageous. What additional service will we receive for this increased rate? In addition, I don't use as much water as other households; yet, I am charged a minimum rate that exceeds the rate I should pay based on my water usage. Now, the rate will be increased even more.

A full cost analysis should be conducted to determine whether a 33.4% rate increase is justified.

Furthermore, there should be an opportunity for households with minimal water usage to pay based on the gallons of water actually used, not a flat minimum rate. These households are subsidizing the cost for other larger households. If you want to promote water conservation, charge households for the water they use and stop requiring the rest of us to over-pay, which is a discriminatory practice.

Thank you,  
Carla Miller

**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Christie Borders  
**Date:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 11:16:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [OUCC Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title:  
Name: Christie Borders  
Email: [cdborders@bluemarble.net](mailto:cdborders@bluemarble.net)  
Phone: (812) 320-3213  
Address: 4082 W. Ardsley Ln.

Bloomington  
IN  
47404  
Utilities: Ellettsville (Indiana) Municipal Water Utility  
Type of Inquiry: Case Comment

Comments: I would like to issue a complaint and request a formal hearing for Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility in the case of extreme rate hikes. Poor planning by the commission and lack of foresight in raising rates as needed over the years is now resulting in a huge increase overnight for residents at a time when inflation and increasing prices are a huge stressor on consumers. I recommend a review of procedure and a rate increase in increments over the next years rather than all at once. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [Hank Baugh](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ellettsville Utility increase  
**Date:** Monday, June 5, 2023 4:36:52 PM

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I received notice that Ellettsville Utilities is requesting a 33.4% increase for the water. I want it on the record that this amount of increase in our economy for an essential utility is not okay.

I disagree with this amount of increase. I am a customer.

Henry Baugh  
4340 W Forrest Park Drive  
Bloomington, IN  
47404

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Glen Baker  
**Date:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 7:58:22 AM  
**Attachments:** [OUCC Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title: Mr.  
Name: Glen Baker  
Email: [geb63@bluemarble.net](mailto:geb63@bluemarble.net)  
Phone: (812) 606-1077  
Address: 4263 W CANSLER LN

Bloomington  
IN  
47404

Utilities: Ellettsville Utilities

Type of Inquiry: General Inquiry

Comments: In regards to the proposed request for increase of water rates by the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility, I urge you to deny this request.

Many people are experiencing financial hardship due to the on-going inflation crisis in our country, and this will only exacerbate the problem for local residents.

Thank you.

**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCG Contact Form: Heather Hubbard  
**Date:** Friday, June 9, 2023 10:12:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [OUCG Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCG Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title: Mrs.  
Name: Heather Hubbard  
Email: [hmcquist@iu.edu](mailto:hmcquist@iu.edu)  
Phone: (812) 345-0465  
Address: 2913 W Winterberry Ct

BLOOMINGTON

IN

47404

Utilities: Ellettsville (Indiana) Municipal Water Utility

Type of Inquiry: General Inquiry

Comments: All in the Ellettsville serving area received a letter that Ellettsville (Indiana) Municipal Water Utility has files an application to increase water billing rates by 33.4% under Indiana code 8-1-2-61.5. I would like to ask for a public hearing as this new rate increase will add on average between \$15-\$20 to my personal water utility bill each month, which is likely substantially more for other properties as we conserve. If this is passed, all residential and business properties will be charged, this adds up to a very large sum in profit. I understand that services and costs change, there is already a special tax for the sewage rate, this new increase will just add more expense to a bill which seems already higher than many other water utility companies in the area and/or state. I would like to request a comparison with other companies and identified facts/reasons for such a high increase and where the extra profit will be used.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heather Hubbard



**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Jennifer B.  
**Date:** Friday, June 2, 2023 8:45:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [OUCC Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title:  
Name: Jennifer B.  
Email: [jenn.burrell23@gmail.com](mailto:jenn.burrell23@gmail.com)  
Phone:  
Address: 3923 W Coffey Lane

Bloomington  
IN  
47404

Utilities: Ellettsville Utility

Type of Inquiry: Case Comment

Comments: Please provide additional evidence to support the increase of 33.4% for water bills as a whole.

Neighboring municipalities do not make increases at that rate “Accross the board”, and if they have traditionally it is because their pricing had fallen far behind. Our average utility bill for ONLY 2 individuals is over \$50, and that isn’t in the summer months, for an average efficient home. As home owners in the area paying higher costs with increased base property taxes, we cannot simply keep affording every group to increase their rates “Accross the board”. Especially a utility group that has a monopoly over service for our water supply. We do not have another option for competition sake in the utility industry. Additionally I would like to state that as a county resident outside of the reach of two city limits, it is disheartening to see representatives (William Ellis for example) that are voted in or elected by tax payers state that they will not listen to citizens’ comments regarding this proposed increase. Again, this notice was sent because it is proposed and not definite. I hope these comments are taken sincerely as many of us have not had wage increases to keep up with continually levied increases. Thanks for your time.

**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Julie Adams  
**Date:** Saturday, June 17, 2023 11:40:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [OUCC Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title: Ms.  
Name: Julie Adams  
Email: [jadams7711@gmail.com](mailto:jadams7711@gmail.com)  
Phone:  
Address: 4994 N Muirfield Drive

Bloomington  
IN  
47404

Utilities: Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility

Type of Inquiry: Case Comment

Comments: This is a comment on the application for rate increase dated 5/31/23 filed by Ellettsville Indiana municipal water utility for a 33.4% across the board increase. I am writing to oppose this increase on the basis of it being way in excess of any inflation rates currently being experienced and a hardship on customers to absorb such a substantial increase all at once. This will be very hard on any fixed income customers as well as on Ellettsville/Bloomington customers in general, given its size. Thank you for hearing me out,  
Julie Adams

**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Sean Sangl  
**Date:** Monday, June 5, 2023 2:42:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [OUCC Contact Form.pdf](#)

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title: Mr.  
Name: Sean Sangl  
Email: [jkspaming007@gmail.com](mailto:jkspaming007@gmail.com)  
Phone:  
Address: 4073 N Brookwood Dr

Bloomington  
IN  
47404  
Utilities: Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility

Type of Inquiry: Case Comment

Comments: It is absurd that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility would request a 33.4% increase. 33.4% is 3.67 times more than the peak inflation experienced over the last year. If they are unable to provide the justification or detailed reasoning behind this increase, then it is not necessary. "Across-the-board increase" phrasing means they do not know why the increase is needed. This leads me to believe the increase in funds will not be used wisely, will not improve our service, and Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility is only doing it because other entities are increasing their prices. Please reject or keep at/below the peak inflation over the last 12 months.

**From:** [jr47404@yahoo.com](mailto:jr47404@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Increased water rates for ellsville Indiana  
**Date:** Monday, June 5, 2023 2:08:13 PM

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I'm writing this letter in response to the proposed increase in water rates for customers of Ellettsville Indiana by the Ellettsville Indiana Municipal Water Utility.

I want it to be known that I oppose any increase in the water rate (i.e. "approximately 33.4%" as noted on the flier).

This county already pays approximately 50% more than the surrounding counties in the water and sewage rate. A survey of our neighbors in our neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods also reflect a higher rate of payment for water and waste.

Because of my opposition to the increased proposed water rate I hereby request as a private, tax paying citizen, a public hearing before the Indiana utility regulatory commission. I request it be scheduled without further delay. It is my intention to be present at this meeting to voice my opposition to any rate increase.

Joshua Rivera  
Ellettsville, Indiana

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Mathew Moore

Name



Signature

726 N. Abigail LN

Address

Ellettsville, IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Melissa Wells

Name

MWells

Signature

719 N Abigail Lane

Address

Ellettsville, IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

BRANDON WEBB

Name



Signature

719 N. ABIGAIL LANE

Address

ELLETTSVILLE, IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Joseph W. McGovern

Name

Joe McGovern

Signature

713N. Abigail Ln.

Address

Ellettsville, IN 47429

City/State/Zip



June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Brooklyn Wood

Name

Brooklyn Wood

Signature

860 N Abigail Lane

Address

Ellettsville, IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Shelby Peters

Name



Signature

1047 E Rockaway

Address

Ellettsville IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Brittany Pedroni

Name

Brittany Pedroni

Signature

1040 E Jackie Court

Address

Ellettsville IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

David N. Wington

Name

David N. Wington

Signature

720 Abigail Ln

Address

Ellettsville, IN 47429

City/State/Zip

June 14, 2023

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary  
101 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission Secretary:

I understand that the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility formally applied with your commission to increase the water rate charged to their customers on May 31, 2023. Although the application was filed pursuant to Indiana Code 8-1-2-61.5, please consider this letter a formal request for a public hearing to discuss the rate increase with the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility. Thank you for your time and service to the State of Indiana.

Respectfully,

Bridget Kinder

Name

Bna L

Signature

1042 E. Nicholas Lane

Address

Ellettsville IN 47429

City/State/Zip

July 3, 2023

Secretary of the Commission  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 W Washington St - Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis IN 46204

Re: Proposed Increase in Water Rates for Customers of the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility

Dear Secretary:

I would like to request a formal hearing regarding the above-referenced matter. The proposed increase in the water rate – 33.4% across the board – is unreasonable and will place an extreme hardship on all users.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely, *(Faint signature)*



Twyla (Mrs. George) Edwards  
2909 W Fawkesway Dr  
Bloomington IN 47404

July 7, 2023

TO: Secretary of the Commission  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 W Washington St, Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

FROM: Mike & Terri Morrison  
7150 W Ratliff Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47404

RE: Ellettsville (IN) Municipal Water Utility Proposed Increase in Water Rates  
Ind. Code 8-1-2-61.5

To Whom it may concern:

We have complaint with the outrageous proposal of 33.4% increase in our water/utility rates.

We received notification of the proposed increase but have not been given a reason for the requested increase. As inflation is running away with everyone's wages, how is it within reason that the, Ellettsville (IN) Municipal Water Utility, dare to ask for such an outrageous increase? Their expectancy is shameful when no citizen has received anything close to a wage increase of such magnitude.

It is our opinion that this local utility should have been managing their revenue for unexpected needs. With that, the number of residents/housing has increased exorbitantly in the area. It would seem reasonable that, a profit making organization such as this, however small, would naturally increase their profits because of the increase in customers. Thus, the question is... 'why' are we, as customers, being asked to pay more for no increase of service? Are we, as utility users, expected to reward poor management of the Ellettsville Water Utility?

As citizens of this community and users of the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility, we respectfully request a public hearing before the IURC concerning the proposed 33.4% increase in water rates (Ind. Code 8-1-2-61.5).

Please notify us of any scheduled hearing concerning this subject. We can be reached via our mailing address (shown above) or by email at – [sonsofthunder@bluemarble.net](mailto:sonsofthunder@bluemarble.net).

Respectively,



Mike & Terri Morrison

**From:** [Elaine Parsley](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ellettsville water rate hike  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 22, 2023 3:03:47 PM

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Re: IURC Cause No. 45900-U

I have concerns regarding Ellettsville's proposed 33% water rate hike. I am a senior citizen on a fixed income who is already struggling to make ends meet. I am bothered by the rate increase and not just for the water but more so for the piggy-back increase that is also going to affect the cost for sewer which for those residents living in Ellettsville is the more expensive portion of our utility bill. Even if the current percentage for sewer remains the same it is going to increase the utility bills substantially more when the percentage for sewer is calculated on the higher water rate.

The 33% increase is excessive and I hope that you will reject it.

Sincerely,

Elaine Parsley  
305 S. Ridge Springs Lane  
Ellettsville, IN 47429



**From:** [noreply@in.accessgov.com](mailto:noreply@in.accessgov.com)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Form Submission - OUCC Contact Form: Lisa Chaplin  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 26, 2023 9:45:46 AM

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A form has been submitted for: OUCC Contact Form  
Please review the attached PDF for the submission information.

Title: Mrs.  
Name: Lisa Chaplin  
Email: [lisa.chaplin@comcast.net](mailto:lisa.chaplin@comcast.net)  
Phone:  
Address: 4615 W Arlington Rd

Bloomington  
IN  
47404

Utilities: Ellettsville

Type of Inquiry: Case Comment

Comments: I oppose the proposed ellettsville utility rate hike. They have new office buildings that should've been built to house them without the cost of another new site. There is new housing and apartments in their service area which should garner new income. Finally, the water quality has been rusty/hard water for years without improvement no matter what we pay.

**From:** [Bill Murphy](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** IURC Cause No. 45900-U  
**Date:** Thursday, July 27, 2023 11:11:28 AM

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Hello,

I would formally like to comment my opposition to the Ellettsville Utilities rate hike proposal.

**Thank you,**

**William Murphy**  
**7230 W Upland Ct**  
**Bloomington, IN 47404**

**From:** [AOL Mail Team](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** IURC Cause No.45900-U  
**Date:** Saturday, August 12, 2023 2:49:00 PM

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John and Patricia Null, 1065 N. Forest View Dr. S., Ellettsville, IN 47429, property owners.

We are requesting a change to the proposed water utility base rate for water. 33% is a big increase. If possible, could it be increased by small increments over the next five to seven years.

The big increase puts a heavy burden on property owners and renters.

If this is not possible, could you give the senior community a price break. Property owners or renters over the age of 65. It would be greatly appreciated.

RE: PROPOSED INCREASE IN WATER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE ELLETTSVILLE (INDIANA) MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as my request for a formal public hearing for proposed 33.4% rate increase.

Thank you.

Ellettsville Utility Customer,

Charlotte Marks

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charlotte Marks".

4462 N Hull Dr.

Bloomington IN 47404

**From:** [Alex Martens](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Water - Ellettsville  
**Date:** Monday, July 31, 2023 10:17:17 PM

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Hello,

My name is Alex Martens, and I live at 7439 W Natalie Drive, Bloomington, IN, 47404. I am reaching out about the recent notification we received from the city of Ellettsville in regards to our water rate. I believe it's referred to as IURC Cause No. 45900-U.

I wanted to write to voice my strong opposition to raising our water rate 30%, and believe that there should be a IURC formal hearing. There shouldn't be any reason why the rate should be 30%. Even with inflation, 30% is too drastic of an increase.

Please let me know if I need to submit any additional information.

Best,  
Alex Martens

**From:** [MAUREEN GAHAN](#)  
**To:** [UCC Consumer Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility rate increases  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023 12:37:00 PM

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To: Indiana Utility Consumer Council  
From: Maureen Gahan (retiree, fixed income)  
7225 West Reeves Road  
Bloomington, IN 47404

RE: Impending 33.4% increase in Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility rates

Members of the Utility Consumer Council:

I am writing to ask you to request a public hearing on the proposed rate increases. Most of us only received notice of the increase with our current utility bill. It was not only a surprise but presented as a done deal.

Like many conscientious users of utilities, I make every effort to conserve water. However, Ellettsville Utilities already charges me \$46.96 in fixed fees before I use one drop of water. I recently discovered this when my water was shut off for a complete month due to a construction project. Having used no water for the entire month of January 2023, I received a bill for \$46.96. Believing it to be in error (my monthly bills typically range from \$51-56) I went to the company to have it corrected. Much to my surprise I was told by staff that \$46.96 is the fixed monthly base fee. What does it pay for I asked?? I got no specifics just a general - Admin, overhead, systems costs. Is the rate hike just 33.4% of the water that I use or is it in the fixed fees that I pay? Or in the total of both? I would like an answer to that question. If it is in the fixed fees or in the total then, that is an unacceptable increase.

I understand that such fixed utility fees are becoming more common. From 2015 to 2018, utilities made 158 proposals to state utility commissions to impose or increase fixed fees, according to Samantha Williams who tracks the issue for the Natural Resources Defense Council. 31 utilities in 18 states asked for an increase of at least 100 percent. These fees also appear near the top of the list of unexpected fees that Americans experience, according to a recent Consumer Reports survey of 2,057 adults: 41 percent of people who had a utility bill in the past two years said they had experienced an unexpected or hidden utility fee.

Fortunately when consumers are made aware and raise concerns with organizations like yours, state energy commissions are starting to reject such hidden fees and/or huge rate hikes.

Although I cannot shop around for a different water company, I can request that the Utility Consumer Council challenge the hike and advocate for consumers with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission.

Thank you for your assistance with this. Sincerely, Maureen Gahan

June 2, 2023

Secretary of the Commission  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 W. Washington Street  
Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Secretary:

I am writing to request that a formal public hearing be held to review the request by the Ellettsville Municipal Water Utility for a 33.4% increase in their rates. This is disgraceful, coming on the heels of dramatic property tax increases and a state increase in the gasoline tax. Enough!!!



Neal Krause  
4001 Breezewood Ct.  
Bloomington, IN 47404

Secretary of the Commission  
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 Washington Street  
Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

I am writing this letter in response to the proposed water increase rates for customers of Ellettsville Indiana by the Ellettsville Indiana Municipal Water Utility and request a formal public hearing.

I want it to be known that I oppose any increase in the water rate ( i.e. approximately 33.4% as noted on the flyer).

Monroe County already pays approximately 50% more than the surrounding counties in water and sewage rates. A survey of our neighbors in our neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods also reflect a higher rate of payment for water and waste.

Because of my opposition to the increase proposed water rate I hear by request, as a private, tax paying citizen, a public hearing before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. I request it to be scheduled without further delay. It is my intention to be present at this meeting to voice my opposition to any increased water and sewage rate.

Norma Freeman  
Norma Freeman  
6343 N Jacob Ct  
Ellettsville In. 47429  
47429



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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
  
101 Washington Street  
  
Suite 1500 East  
  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Janet B. Hill  
Janet B. Hill  
6342 N. Jacob Ct.  
Ellettsville, Ind. 47429

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Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Brexton Denman  
6352 N Jacob ct  
Ellettsville IN 47429

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Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Michelle Panagopoulos  
6348 N. Jacob Ct.  
Ellettsville, IN 47429

David Brown  
David Brown  
6348 N. Jacob Ct.  
Ellettsville, IN 47429

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JOSHUA RIVERA

JRiviera

7284 IAN CT  
Ellettsville IN 47429

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 Washington Street  
Suite 1500 East  
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*Thomas L. Easton*  
THOMAS L. EASTON  
7282 IAN CT  
ELLETSVILLE,  
IN  
47429

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 Washington Street  
Suite 1500 East  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Jeremiah Bentley

*Jeremiah Bentley*

7286 N. Ian Ct.

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
101 Washington Street  
Suite 1500 East  
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*Jaym Rivera  
Taryn Rivera  
7284 Iowa Ct  
Ellettsville, IN 47429*



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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

101 Washington Street

Suite 1500 East

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Miranda Bentley  
M. Bentley

7286 N. Ian Ct.  
Ellettsville, IN.

47429

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission  
  
101 Washington Street  
  
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*Andrew Campbell*  
Andrew Campbell  
7293 IAN COURT  
ELLETTVILLE, IN 47429

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Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

101 Washington Street

Suite 1500 East

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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Tammy Brown  
7295 N. Ian Ct  
Ellettsville, IN 47429

6/11/23

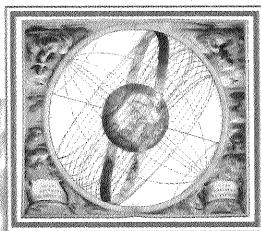
To the Secretary of the commission,

I am submitting a request for a formal hearing regarding the proposed rate increase of 33.4% for water in Ellettsville, IN.

This is not an insubstantial raise and the utility should be prepared to detail the needs that require the increase, as well as to outline why this cannot be accomplished with a more reasonable proposal. As a single occupant user, my water use is minimal, but I pay over \$50 a month. I fear the outcome of an increase on those who are older on a fixed income and those who are underemployed.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Abel



**RE: PROPOSED INCREASE IN WATER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE ELLETTSVILLE (INDIANA) MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

To whom it may concern,

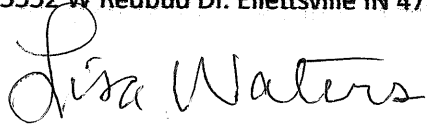
Please accept this letter as my request for a formal public hearing for proposed 33.4% rate increase.

Thank you.

Ellettsville Utility Customer,

Lisa Waters

5552 W Redbud Dr. Ellettsville IN 47429

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Waters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name and address.

**RE: PROPOSED INCREASE IN WATER RATES FOR CUSTOMERS OF THE ELLETTSVILLE (INDIANA) MUNICIPAL WATER UTILITY**

To whom it may concern,

Please accept this letter as my request for a formal public hearing for proposed 33.4% rate increase.

Thank you.

Ellettsville Utility Customer,

Cortney Fulcher

 6-12-23

5552 W Redbud Dr. Ellettsville IN 47429