

## **NIPSCO wants you to pay at least \$11 more each month for your electricity!**

For the second time in 3 years, NIPSCO has filed for another rate hike at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC). NIPSCO monthly electric bills have already increased nearly 26% over the last ten years, and nearly 40% over the last twenty years. At the same time, Hoosier households struggle with declining and stagnant wages and significant increases in the cost of energy, health care, food, and other necessities. **Enough is enough!**

### ***NIPSCO wants to increase the fixed monthly charge on your bill from \$14 to \$17!***

The fixed monthly charge is the amount you pay each month regardless of how much energy you use.

- Charging more for using less through higher fixed charges disproportionately hurts households on low- or fixed-incomes.
- It diminishes the longstanding principal of encouraging conservation.
- It also imposes an unfair “tax” on farms, homes and businesses that choose to install solar panels, wind turbines, or other technologies on their property.

### ***NIPSCO wants you to pick up the tab for the sweetheart deals they want to give to their large industrial customers.***

NIPSCO is only asking to collect a total of 1.4% more money in this rate case, but they want permission from the IURC to shift an extraordinary amount of costs from the large industrial users of energy (steel mills, refineries, and other manufacturing facilities) to all of their other customers.

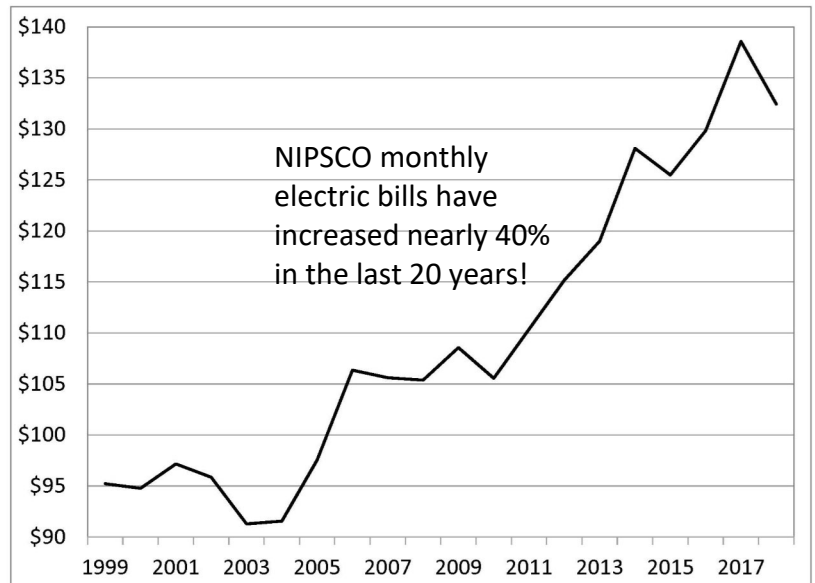
***If this cost-shifting is approved, large industrial customers will realize a rate decrease of 18.9%. Every other type of customer (including churches, cities, residential customers, schools, and small businesses) will be saddled with an across the board rate increase of 11.75%.***

If NIPSCO wants to give industrial customers a huge rate decrease, they should eat the cost themselves. Forcing everybody else to subsidize sweetheart deals for NIPSCO’s industrial customers is not equitable or fair and should not be allowed.

The other major driver for NIPSCO’s request for a rate hike relates to their recent announcement to retire their coal fleet earlier than they were previously anticipating. NIPSCO is asking the IURC for special accounting treatment to collect from customers the remaining value of those plants more quickly than they are currently approved to do so (early depreciation). However, NIPSCO is not fully committing to retire those plants early. In fact, NIPSCO President Violet Sistovaris states in her testimony that NIPSCO “may retire” their coal plants early, without any commitment to do so.

***CAC applauds NIPSCO for their recent announcement and fully supports them retiring their coal fleet as soon as possible. However, CAC will not support special accounting treatment without a binding and firm commitment to retire those coal-fired power plants.***

### **NIPSCO Average Monthly Electric Bills**



# NIPSCO Electric Base Rates Comparison for the average customer using 700 kilowatt hours of electricity per month

|                      | Current Bill    |                | Proposed Bill   |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                      | Charges & Rates | Total Bill     | Charges & Rates | Total Bill      |
| Monthly Fixed Charge | \$14.00         | \$14.00        | \$17.00         | \$17.00         |
| flat kWh rate        | \$0.107         | \$74.73        | \$0.127         | \$88.94         |
| <b>Total:</b>        |                 | <b>\$88.73</b> | <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$105.94</b> |

This is the core of your electric bill - what you are charged for fixed costs and usage fees. This part of your NIPSCO bill makes up about 88% of your current total NIPSCO bill as of December 1, 2018.

## Trackers: the other 12% of your NIPSCO Electric bill not included in "rates."

These trackers, also called "riders," are currently included in your NIPSCO bill and added to the average bill you see above. The amount collected through trackers changes frequently as some are adjusted quarterly, while others change on a semi-annual or annual basis. NIPSCO is requesting to eliminate Rider No. 772, and is proposing to continue using all of the other trackers. How much the trackers will add to your monthly bill moving forward is unknown to everyone but NIPSCO.

|   | Current Trackers |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
|   | Rate per kWh     | Total Bill     |
| Rider No. 770 - Fuel Cost Adjustment ("FAC")                              | \$0.000911       | \$0.64         |
| Rider No. 771 - Regional Transmission Organization Adjustment ("RTO")     | \$0.001273       | \$0.89         |
| Rider No. 772 - Environmental Cost Recovery Mechanism ("ECRM")            | \$0.003273       | \$2.29         |
| Rider No. 774 - Resource Adequacy Adjustment ("RA")                       | \$0.004669       | \$3.27         |
| Rider No. 783 - Demand Side   | \$0.002272       | \$1.59         |
| Rider No. 786 - Green Power Rider ("GPR")                                 | \$0.001805       | \$1.26         |
| Rider No. 787 - Federally Mandated Cost Adjustment ("FMCA")               | \$0.000867       | \$0.61         |
| Rider No. 788 - Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement | \$0.002095       | \$1.47         |
| <b>Total trackers on current bills:</b>                                   |                  | <b>\$12.02</b> |

## Total NIPSCO Electric bill including trackers:

|                 | Current         | Proposed                      |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
|                 | Total Bill      | Total Bill                    |
| Charges & Rates | \$88.73         | \$105.94                      |
| Trackers        | \$12.02         | ?????                         |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$100.75</b> | <b>Total: \$105.94 + ????</b> |

## Take Action Now!

**Send your comments  
to the OUCC!**

### Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor

Attn: William Fine  
115 W. Washington St.  
Suite 1500S  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
uccinfo@oucc.in.gov  
(888) 441-2494 phone

### Tell the OUCC and the IURC Regulators:

- To oppose NIPSCO's request to increase the monthly fixed charge on your electric bill. NIPSCO shouldn't get to charge you more for using less electricity!
- Forcing everybody else to subsidize sweetheart deals for NIPSCO's industrial customers is not equitable or fair and should not be allowed.
- If NIPSCO wants to give a huge rate reduction to their industrial customers, their shareholders should eat the cost.

**Make sure to reference  
Cause Number 45159 in  
your comments!**

## Come to the IURC field hearing to make your voice heard!

**When: Monday, March 11, 2019**  
**Where: Hammond High School Auditorium**  
5926 Calumet Avenue  
Hammond, IN 46320

Presentation by OUCC begins at 5:30 p.m. (local time).  
**Public testimony begins at 6:00 p.m.**