IPL Wants You to Pay $10 More Each Month for Your Electricity!

Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) just got a rate hike in 2018. Now they’re back before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), less than a year later, with their hands out requesting to hike your bills yet again.

In July 2019, Indianapolis Power and Light filed for a request (Cause No. 45264) before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC), for permission to raise their total operating revenues by $1.2 billion over the next 7 years. If approved by the IURC, electric rates will increase by an average of 1.1% every year for 7 years, culminating in a total monthly bill increase of approximately $10.50, according to IPL.

Our Indiana state legislators enabled IPL to file for this type of bill hike when they passed SEA560 (2013), and then recently amended it with SEA1470 (2019). Learn more here: https://www.citact.org/node/2846.

In the last 10 years (2008-2018), IPL’s monthly bills have increased 57% for the average customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours per month. Over roughly that same period (2007-2017), the median annual income (adjusted for inflation) in Marion County has declined by 11.4%, or more than $6,000.

It should also be noted that as reported by the Indianapolis Business Journal, IPL’s electricity sales have declined 8% from 2014 to 2018, while their revenues have increased 10%. In other words, IPL is making money hand over fist, while selling less of their product to the public. What a deal!

Wages are stagnant, while significant increases in the cost of energy, food, health care, utilities, and other necessities are forcing households to make tough decisions on a daily basis. Additionally, 1 in 5 residents in Indianapolis live in poverty and the number of customers being disconnected by IPL every year has increased by 31% since 2015.

Meanwhile, IPL’s parent company, AES, continues to report strong financial results and recently bragged in its 2nd quarter earnings release of the company’s strong performance for its shareholders. AES and IPL are financially healthy.

It is IPL's customers who need relief, not the monopoly utility that is raking in profits hand-over-fist.
IPL is not allowing Smart Meter Opt-Out

As part of this case, IPL is also seeking approval to install advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), otherwise known as "smart meters," at every home and business that they serve. Many utility customers have expressed concerns about health, safety, privacy, and cybersecurity related to the installation and utilization of smart meters. Customers deserve to have all of these concerns addressed prior to any smart meter deployment.

However, unlike other electric utilities in Indiana, IPL is NOT offering customers the opportunity to opt out of smart meter installation. Customers should absolutely have the right to say NO to a smart meter if they so choose. Furthermore, customers should not be forced to have a smart meter installed if they do not want one.

This IPL Bill Hike brought to you by your Indiana State Legislators

Prior to 2013, Indiana’s monopoly energy utilities had to maintain their transmission and distribution infrastructure using their own money, because providing reliable service is their legal obligation under the law as State-franchised monopolies.

In 2019, the Indiana General Assembly passed HEA1470. HEA1470 amended SEA560, which the Indiana General Assembly passed in 2013.

Together, these two pieces of legislation form the law that is enabling IPL to request this hike to customers’ monthly electric bills. This law is the TDSIC Tracker* (Transmission, Distribution, and Storage Improvement Charge).

Indiana State Legislators flipped the model on its head and are now requiring that you as a customer are the one responsible for paying to maintain the utility transmission and distribution infrastructure through your bills. They are placing the cost and the risk of running a utility on you as a customer instead of on the utility and their shareholders, where it belongs.

*For more on trackers, see https://www.citact.org/node/332 & https://www.citact.org/node/2846.

Take action and make your voice heard!

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<tr>
<th>Submit written comments to the OUCC in the case before the IURC:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor</strong>, Attn: Bill Fine</td>
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<tr>
<td>115 W. Washington St., Suite 1500S</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indianapolis, IN 46204</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:uccinfo@oucc.in.gov">uccinfo@oucc.in.gov</a></td>
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<td>(888) 441-2494 phone</td>
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Tell the Utility Consumer Counselor:

• To reject IPL’s request to hike your bills again
• That you shouldn’t have to pay for decades of IPL’s neglect
• That you should have the right to opt out of smart meters
• To fight for residential customers to ensure that monthly bills are affordable, just, and reasonable.

Make sure to reference Cause Number 45264 in your comments!

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<td><a href="http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/">http://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/</a></td>
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**Indiana Senate**
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
(317) 232-9400
(800) 382-9467

**Indiana House of Representatives**
200 W. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786
(317) 232-9600
(800) 382-9842

Tell your State Legislators:

• That legislation passed by the Indiana General Assembly over the last decade is causing your utility bills to skyrocket.**
• That the energy utilities are using trackers to bleed customers dry.
• To protect you as a customer and to stop enabling the utilities to use trackers in this manner.