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CAC Condemns IURC Approval of CenterPoint Costly Gas Plants

CenterPoint electric customers likely to see large bill increases in the future to pay for new fossil gas plants that will rarely operate

INDIANAPOLIS – Today, the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) issued an order approving CenterPoint’s request to construct two new fossil gas combustion turbines that will sit idle most of the time. The new fossil gas plants were originally estimated to cost \$323 million, raising monthly electric bills for residential customers by an average of \$23 per month. Since that time, fossil gas commodity prices have skyrocketed, and inflation has increased the cost of construction and other input costs, meaning customers could face even larger bill increases in the future as a result of this decision.

“This outrageous decision approves unneeded and expensive fossil gas power plants that will significantly raise the cost of electricity for CenterPoint customers,” said Kerwin Olson, Executive Director of CAC. “The IURC’s approval of more expensive fossil gas plants in the middle of a utility affordability crisis and the climate crisis shows how out of touch our utilities and their regulators are with Hoosiers who are struggling to make ends meet and demanding a transition to clean, affordable energy solutions. We renew our call for Governor Holcomb to immediately establish a Utility Affordability Task Force and urge Indiana policymakers to stand up for consumers instead of protecting monopoly utility profits.”

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Copies of the petition, testimony, order, and other case-related documents are available on the IURC Online Services Portal in Cause No. 45564, available [here](#).

Background:

[Hoosiers Are Suffering A Utility Affordability Crisis](#)