

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-03
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

*OPPOSING PROPOSED NIPSCO RATE INCREASE FOR ELECTRIC UTILITY
SERVICES*

WHEREAS, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), pursuant to J.C. §§8-1-2-42, 7, 8-1-2-61 and 8-1-2.5-6 has filed a petition before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) under Cause Number 45772 for:

1. Authority to modify its retail rates and charges for electric utility service through a phased-in increase of rates totaling, on average, 16.5%;
2. Approval of new schedules of rates and charges, general rules and regulations, and riders (both existing and new);
3. Approval of a new rider for variable non-labor O&M expenses associated with coal-fired generation;
4. Modification of the fuel cost adjustment to pass back 100% of off-system sales revenues net of expenses;
5. Approval of revised common and electric depreciation rates applicable to its electric plant in service;
6. Approval of necessary and appropriate accounting relief, including but not limited to approval of (a) certain deferral mechanisms for pension and other post-retirement benefits expenses; (b) approval of regulatory accounting for actual costs of removal associated with coal units following the retirement of Michigan City Unit 12; and (c) a modification of joint venture accounting authority to combine reserve accounts for purposes of passing back joint venture cash;
7. Approval of alternative regulatory plans for the (a) modification of this industrial service structure; and (b) implementation of a low-income program; and
8. Review and determination of NIPSCO's earnings bank for purposes of J.C. §8-1-2-42.3; and

WHEREAS, the IURC, having held a field hearing on January 4, 2023, is currently accepting public comments regarding the proposed 16.5% rate hike; and

WHEREAS, the electric rates of NIPSCO are already among the highest of the utilities mentioned on the website of the IURC; and

WHEREAS, residents of La Porte County, Indiana are already hard-pressed to pay high electric rates and certainly should not be burdened with a rate increase in these most difficult economic times; and

WHEREAS, we are concerned that NIPSCO's parent company, NiSource, has looked to NIPSCO electric customers to help subsidize and support other money-losing operations of the parent company; and

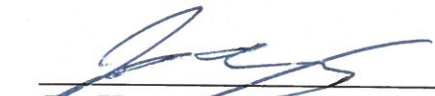
WHEREAS, we would like our sentiments opposing the rate increase placed on the public record for the consideration by the IURC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of La Porte County, Indiana, as follows:

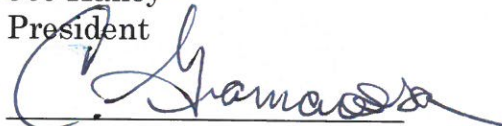
1. That La Porte County, Indiana opposes the proposed increase to NIPSCO rates due to the adverse impact it would have on families struggling to pay existing utility bills.
2. That rather than being rewarded for failure, it is time that NIPSCO executives take pay cuts and undertake fiscally responsible cost-cutting measures instead of seeking a bail-out from already over-burdened ratepayers.
3. The Secretary for the Board of Commissioners of La Porte County, Indiana is directed to forward a copy of this Resolution to Public Comments of the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor via email uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov or by mail at Consumer Services Staff, Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor, 115 W. Washington St, suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 15 day of February, 2023.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA

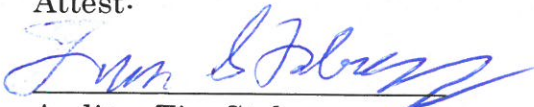


Joe Haney
President



Connie Gramarossa
Vice President

Richard Mrozinski
Member

Attest:


Auditor Tim Stabosz