

**Mission:** The Iowa Utilities Commission regulates utilities, as established by law, to ensure that reasonably priced, reliable, environmentally responsible, and safe utility services are available to Iowans.

**Vision:** The Iowa Utilities Commission is engaged in continuous improvement activities in order to be a regulatory expert and solutions-oriented partner regarding current and emerging utility matters. [Read More](#)

The IUC newsletter is produced quarterly and provides information to Iowans and utility industry stakeholders about various dockets, programs, and functions of the IUC.

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## Iowa Utilities Board is now Iowa Utilities Commission

After 38 years as the Iowa Utilities Board, the state agency welcomed a name change July 1 and is now known as the Iowa Utilities Commission. Board members will now be called Commissioners. Additional changes to legal, physical, digital, and agency branding will be phased in over the next few months. The IUC website has already been changed and can be found at [iuc.iowa.gov](http://iuc.iowa.gov). Staff and business email addresses will end with [@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:@iuc.iowa.gov). For inbound mail for the time being, we ask that you change any emails in your contact list to the [@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:@iuc.iowa.gov) addresses.

The name change is the result of legislation in Senate File 2385 and follows state government reorganization in 2023 that removed the agency from underneath the umbrella of the Department of Commerce.



*The Iowa Utilities Commission building sign on the corner of Court Avenue and SE 14th Street in Des Moines, was updated to reflect the new name for the agency as of July 1, 2024. Photo/Don Tormey*

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## **IUC approves Summit Carbon Solutions' proposed CO2 pipeline application with modifications**

On June 25, 2024, the Iowa Utilities Commission issued its final decision order, approving Summit Carbon Solutions, LLC's (Summit Carbon), application, with modifications, for a hazardous liquid pipeline in Docket No. [HLP-2021-0001](#).

Summit Carbon filed its petition to construct, operate, and maintain a proposed 688 miles of 6- to 24-inch diameter hazardous liquid pipeline in 29 counties to transport liquefied carbon dioxide within the state of Iowa on January 28, 2022.

In consideration of all the evidence and arguments presented in this case, the IUC found that the proposed pipeline will provide a service that is in the public convenience and necessity under Iowa Code 479B.9. The permit to construct the pipeline will only be issued to Summit Carbon after the company has complied with the filing requirements set forth in the order.

The order also grants Summit Carbon the right of eminent domain over specific parcels, and only after the permit is issued. The IUC has limited Summit Carbon's power to utilize eminent domain through filing requirements that are subject to review and approval by the IUC.

The IUC's order is available on the IUC website. All documents in this case can be viewed in the IUC's electronic filing system under Docket No. [HLP-2021-0001](#).

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## **IUC launches new One Call complaint form**

The IUC attended numerous stakeholder events prior to the 2024 excavation season regarding Iowa's One Call law, [Iowa Code Chapter 480](#). In addition, recent legislative changes to chapter 480 became effective July 1. In response to changes in the law and feedback received at these events, the IUC developed and launched a new online complaint form to speed the process for gathering information about potential violations of the One Call law. The [new form](#) is now available on the IUC website and will be available soon on the Attorney General's website.

This new form is streamlined to include only the basic information necessary to start a One Call investigation. The required fields include contact information for the person making the complaint, the time and location of the alleged violation to chapter 480, and any information about the excavator and the utilities involved. The goals of the redesign were to improve the process for filing complaints with the IUC and to make the form more user friendly.

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## Update on recent utility rate increase requests

The IUC has three pending utility rate increase requests among its active dockets. Following is a status update.

### Alliant Energy - Interstate Power & Light Company

On October 12, 2023, Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant-IPL) filed an application to revise its electric and natural gas rates in Docket No. [RPU-2023-0002](#). Pre-filed written testimony was filed in the IUC's electronic filing system between October 2023 and June 2024. The IUC's public evidentiary hearing is scheduled to begin on July 9, 2024, in the agency's Hearing Room in Des Moines and will include Alliant-IPL and 11 other interested parties.

### Black Hills Energy

On May 1, 2024, Black Hills Energy filed its request to increase the natural gas rates it charges to its customers in Docket No. [RPU-2024-0001](#). Consumer comment meetings have been scheduled for late July in Council Bluffs and Newton, early August in Dubuque, and one virtual option in August. The meetings allow customers to make comments or ask questions about the proposed rate increase and the general quality of service provided by Black Hills to representatives of Black Hills, the IUC, or Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice. A scheduling conference was held June 20, 2024, to determine, among other things, public hearing dates for the rate case. Details about this rate case and how to register and participate in the virtual comment meeting are available on the IUC's [website](#).

### Iowa American Water

On May 1, 2024, Iowa-American Water filed its request for customer rate increases in Docket No. [RPU-2024-0002](#). Consumer comment meetings have been scheduled for early August 2024 in Clinton and Bettendorf, and one virtual option is scheduled. A scheduling conference was held on June 20, 2024, to determine, among other things, public hearing dates for the rate case. Details about this rate case and how to register and participate in the virtual comment meeting are available on the IUC's [website](#).

In addition to the three pending rate cases, a fourth rate case proceeding recently concluded:

### MidAmerican Energy

On March 29, 2024, the IUC issued its final order in MidAmerican Energy Company's natural gas rate increase proceeding in Docket No. [RPU-2023-0001](#). The order denied MidAmerican's compliance filing on May 22, 2024. MidAmerican addressed the deficiencies in its compliance filing, and the IUC approved the compliance tariff in an order issued on June 20, 2024. Utility tariffs filed with the IUC show the rates and charges for public utility services and the rules and regulations under which such services are furnished. The approved tariff became effective on July 1.



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## New enhancements made to IUC's Electronic Filing System

Updates have been made to the IUC's electronic filing system (EFS) that will declutter email for EFS subscribers who are added to a service list. The EFS Subscriber feature allows anyone to add themselves to any docket as a "subscriber." This feature is integrated with the "my subscriptions" page, which allows you to manage service or subscription notifications for your account.

Another notable item that was recently implemented is the ability to automatically copy a saved document title to the document title field. This saves time when uploading larger filings with several documents.

Please email [ITsupport@iuc.iowa.gov](mailto:ITsupport@iuc.iowa.gov) for IUC staff assistance.

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### Electric Inspector John Welcher retires from the IUC

After nearly 13 years with the Iowa Utilities Commission as an Electric Utilities Regulation Inspector, John Welcher has retired. His last day with the IUC was June 28, 2024.

John has been in the electric utility field for his entire career and started out by working on a line crew, progressing to become a journeyman lineman and then a fleet manager for an Iowa investor-owned utility. During his years at the IUC with the Safety & Engineering Bureau, John has been responsible for conducting inspections in the eastern half of the state. John is an excellent electric inspector, has years of knowledge and experience, is a true professional, and will be greatly missed by all his colleagues at the IUC and in the industry.

The IUC thanks John for his years of service and wishes him all the best in retirement.

## PHMSA completes natural gas pipeline safety audit

The IUC received a high score during its May 21-23, 2024, natural gas pipeline safety program audit conducted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), for the program's activities carried out in calendar year 2023. The audit included a review of annual progress report documents and pipeline program procedures and records.

The audit consisted of PHMSA spending two days in our Des Moines office to review all aspects of the IUC's Pipeline Safety Program. The audit included an onsite field inspection as well. Safety & Engineering pipeline safety program manager Sanel Lisinovic with engineer Alek Milewski, assisted PHMSA with the in-office inspection, with additional assistance provided by engineer Emily Clapham and One Call investigator Ryan Martin. The field inspection by PHMSA was assisted by IUC inspector Paul Hansen and Alek Milewski.

The audit resulted in the IUC's Safety and Engineering bureau scoring 97 out of a possible 100 points on the gas program evaluation.

# IUC Hearing and Meeting Calendar

Public Hearings are scheduled in the following dockets:

- [RMU-2023-00029](#) Chapter 29: 9 a.m. July 2, IUC Hearing Room
- [RPU-2023-0002](#) Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy): 9 a.m. July 9-12, IUC Hearing Room
- [RMU-2023-0040](#) Chapter 40: 9 a.m. July 16, IUC Hearing Room
- [RMU-2023-0040](#) Chapter 40: 9 a.m. July 30, IUC Hearing Room

Public Meetings are scheduled in the following dockets:

- [E-22556](#) Old Gold Energy Center, LLC: Informational Meeting 6 p.m. July 17, Country View Acres, 628 430th St, Joice
- [RMU-2023-0045](#): Chapter 45 Technical Conference 2 p.m. July 18, IUC Hearing Room
- [RPU-2024-0001](#) Black Hills Energy: Consumer Comment Meeting 5:30 p.m. July 22, Council Bluffs Public Library, 400 Willow Ave, Council Bluffs
- [RPU-2024-0001](#) Black Hills Energy: Consumer Comment Meeting 5:30 p.m. July 23, DMACC Newton Campus, 600 N Second Ave W, Newton
- [GCU-2024-0002](#) Duane Arnold IV, LLC: Informational Meeting July 24, 6 p.m. Hawkeye Downs Expo Center, Cedar Rapids
- [GCU-2024-0001](#) Rock Creek Solar, LLC: Informational Meeting July 25, 6 p.m. Mississippi River Eco Tourism Center, Camanche
- [RMU-2023-0013](#) Chapter 13: Technical Conference 2 p.m. July 30, IUC Hearing Room
- [RMU-2023-0020](#) Chapter 20; Technical Conference 9 a.m. August 1, IUC Hearing Room
- [RPU-2024-0001](#) Black Hills Energy: Consumer Comment Meeting 5 p.m. August 5, Carnegie-Stout Public Library, 360 W 11th St, Dubuque
- [RPU-2024-0001](#) Black Hills Energy: Consumer Comment Meeting 11:30 a.m. August 6 Virtual
- [RPU-2024-0002](#) Iowa American Water Company: Consumer Comment Meeting 6 p.m. August 6, Wild Rose Casino & Hotel Clinton, 777 Wild Rose Dr, Clinton
- [RPU-2024-0002](#) Iowa American Water Company: Consumer Comment Meeting 6 p.m. August 7, Quad-Cities Waterfront Convention Center, 2021 State St, Bettendorf
- [RPU-2024-0002](#) Iowa American Water Company: Consumer Comment Meeting 12 p.m. August 8 Virtual

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## Iowa Utilities Commission

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