INDIANAPOLIS – The City of Indianapolis today filed testimony with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) supporting the transfer of the City’s water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group. Today’s filing follows approval of the utility transfer by the City-County Council on July 26 and the Citizens Board of Directors on Aug. 11. The City and Citizens must gain IURC approval to officially transfer the systems.

“Filing with the IURC brings us one step closer to doing what’s best for residents and businesses in the City of Indianapolis,” said Mayor Greg Ballard. “With IURC approval, the transfer will provide hundreds of millions of dollars to rebuild our city’s crumbling streets, bridges and sidewalks. At the same time, we will be placing these vital utilities in the hands of professional utility operators who will reduce currently projected rates 25 percent by 2025.”

The City’s filing follows a joint petition filing by the City and Citizens on Aug. 11 requesting IURC approval for Citizens to own and operate the water and wastewater utilities. Citizens also filed full testimony today in support of the utility transfer petition. IURC review and final approval is a process that is expected to take several months.

“We are looking forward to working with the IURC to gain approval for this important proposal,” said Carey Lykins, president & CEO of Citizens Energy Group. “IURC approval will allow us to move forward with the process of combining the utilities to create up to $60 million in annual savings, while ensuring quality drinking water and cleaner area rivers and streams.”

As the IURC considers the utility transfer, Citizens will be carefully planning the integration of the water and wastewater utilities into the Citizens family of companies. Citizens does not expect to take full control of the water and wastewater utilities until sometime in the first quarter of 2011.
Since the announcement of the MOU between the City of Indianapolis and Citizens Energy Group on March 10, 2010, Mayor Ballard, his administration and Citizens have focused on transparency to ensure the public is informed and educated on all aspects of the proposal.

Representatives from the Mayor’s Office and Citizens have held more than 60 public forums and meetings with key stakeholder groups, such as the Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, 100 Black Men, the Concerned Clergy, the Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, and representatives from the building and housing industries. The City and Citizens also have been engaged throughout the process with public and technical advisory groups that are providing valuable input on the operations of the drinking water, stormwater and wastewater systems.

The utility transfer has received widespread community support from The Indianapolis Star, Indianapolis Business Journal, and organizations including the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee and the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

To access the filing documents, log on to the IURC’s Electronic Document System (EDS) at https://myweb.in.gov/IURC/eds/ and click the cases link. In the docket number field, type the number 43936 and click the search button. To access the filings, click the Filings\Docket Entries button.

For more information about the utility transfer or to submit feedback, visit www.indy.gov/utilities; log on to the FTP site, ftp://ftp.indygov.org/utilities (username: public; password: public); or call (317) 327-4MAC.

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