

IURC News Release

Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission

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IURC Receives Indianapolis Power and Light's Action Plan for Implementing Downtown Safety Recommendations

INDIANAPOLIS – Today Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) submitted an action plan to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission (IURC) intended to address the deficiencies outlined in a recent independent audit of its underground network after a series of manhole cover explosions occurred downtown.

The plan is in response to IURC Chairman Jim Atterholt's request for a detailed timeline with measureable objectives designed to improve network reliability and safety. Specifically, the plan details how the utility will implement the recommendations made by O'Neill Management Consulting, LLC, an independent third-party investigator brought on by the IURC to examine the condition of IPL's system and the quality of its operations and maintenance procedures.

"IPL must be accountable to its customers and the residents of downtown Indianapolis," said Chairman Atterholt. "We will continue to pursue this matter until the frequency of incidents has been addressed and the O'Neill recommendations have been implemented to the satisfaction of all parties involved."

Chairman Atterholt's request for an action plan was made during the December 19, 2011 public meeting where O'Neill Management Consulting, LLC provided an overview and answered questions about its audit report. Based on the findings within the audit report, the IURC ordered IPL to come up with an action plan within 30 days on how it plans to address the concerns raised by both the IURC and O'Neill Management Consulting, LLC. Additionally, the IURC has since requested that IPL engage O'Neill Management Consulting, LLC to review, inspect, and comment on the most recent incident involving a substation on January 16th.

"I consider this to be the first step," said Chairman Atterholt. "The next will be for the utility to deliver on the promises made by investing additional time and energy into ensuring the safety and reliability of its network."

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The Commission is a fact-finding body that hears evidence in cases filed before it and makes decisions based on the evidence presented in those cases. An advocate of neither the public nor the utilities, the IURC is required by state statute to make decisions that balance the interests of all parties to ensure the utilities provide adequate and reliable service at reasonable prices.

For more information, please visit: www.in.gov/iurc.