

H.F. MAGNUSON COMPANY

SCOTT BUILDING
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WALLACE, IDAHO 83873

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TELECOPIED
IDaho PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

208 752-1131

September 16, 2003

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington
Boise, ID 83712

Re: Avista
File #AVU-E-03-6

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to register my protest in connection with the application filed by Avista Utilities to continue the 19.4 percent surcharge against North Idaho customers.

As you are mindful, the economy throughout Idaho has been in a recession. The economy in North Idaho has been particularly impacted as a result of the on-going recession that is occurring in our state and area.

In fact, the unemployment rate for Shoshone County for the month of August was 14 percent. This is the highest unemployment rate in the state of Idaho. Many of the merchants and small businesses in the Silver Valley are merely "hanging on."

I would respectfully ask that the Commissioners and their staff review the application and keep the request for an increase and/or surcharge to a minimum.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


H. F. Magnuson

HFM:sla

Thank you.