

Petition I from Silver Valley -  
1,294 signatures

March 12, 2004

Public Utilities Commission  
Boise, Idaho

(See Official  
Case File for  
lists of signatures)

Dear Sirs,

Following is a petition protesting Avista's proposed rate increase. We have gathered all of these signatures within the last three days. If time had allowed, we could have had many, many more. We talked to small business owners who are barely making it and would have to close their doors if the increase goes into effect. Cafe owners told us that their utility bills are so high that they can't survive. The Silver Valley is a very depressed valley and this would be like someone throwing a rock in front of the door. We are also trying to attract new businesses to the area and the proposed rate increase would be a big detriment in that effort. We, in northern Idaho, cannot compete with southern Idaho and Boise on utilities for businesses.

Also, the Silver Valley consists of a high percentage of senior citizens. Many seniors shared with us that, with the high cost of health care, precriptions and food, they would be forced out of their homes which is extremely sad when you take into account that most of these individuals have lived in the same homes most of their lives. When we listened to their stories we wanted to cry.

Thank you for taking taking the time to review this petition and please give this your kindest consideration and understand what impact the rate increase will have on the Silver Valley.

Sincerely,

Eileen Wilhelm  
*Eileen Wilhelm*  
Iris Byrne  
*Iris Byrne*  
Maggie Madditser  
*Maggie Madditser*

72 PAGES → 1,294 signatures -