

PEGGY WHITE, CLERK DISTRICT COURT
AUDITOR and RECORDER

email: pwhite@co.shoshone.id.us

Office Phone: 752-1264

Fax: 753-2711



COMMISSIONERS:

JIM VERGOBBI, District 1
SHERRY KRULITZ, District 2
JON CANTAMESSA, District 3

email: bocc@co.shoshone.id.us

Office Phone: 752-3331

Fax: 753-2711

County of Shoshone

700 BANK STREET, SUITE 120
WALLACE, IDAHO 83873-2348

August 16, 2004

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to comment on Avista's proposed rate increase for Shoshone County. We three County Commissioners represent over 13,000 residents of Shoshone County. Our county has been economically depressed for over 20 years. Our unemployment is one of only a few in Idaho reported in double digits. Our population is concentrated with senior citizens and lower income levels.

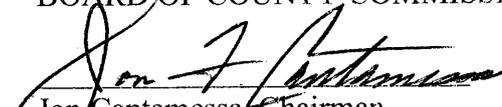
We have protested utility increases in the past several years to no avail. Our economy has not improved. Our citizens cannot afford another increase.

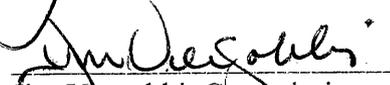
We would ask you the commission, to deny the Avista request and ask that Avista reduce their operating costs by the shortfall rather than double digit rate increases to rate payers in our county.

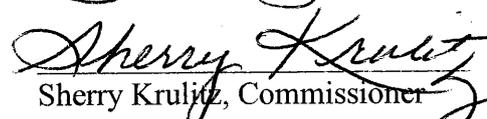
We are available to answer any questions that the commission may have or to document the economics of our county. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Jon Cantamessa, Chairman


Jim Vergobbi, Commissioner


Sherry Krulitz, Commissioner

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2004 AUG 18 AM 8:29

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION



**Best Western
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Wallace, ID 83873
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1-800-528-1234

August 9, 2004

Mr. Paul Kjellander, President
Mr. Dennis Hansen, Commissioner
Ms. Marsha Smith, Commissioner
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington
Boise, ID 83712

Re: Avista Utilities

Dear Commissioners:

Public notice has been made that Avista Utilities has petitioned the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for permission to increase electric and natural gas rates again, for the second year in a row. The requested increase is substantial.

This request is not being received well. The economic conditions in the Silver Valley and all of North Idaho are severe. The downturn from the loss of a natural resource based economy has not abated. Our unemployment rates are the highest in the State of Idaho. We also have a continuing migration of residents due to the fact that there is no job base.

This request by Avista is a result of many factors, none of which are the fault of the gas and electric ratepayer. Poor utility decisions in the past by Avista during the gas and electric crisis of recent years are a major factor.

For years, Avista has stressed conservation of our precious gas and electric resources to its ratepayers. We have responded by conserving and now we are being punished for being responsive to the environment and Avista. Now, Avista states that conservation has caused a lessening of electricity and gas.

August 9, 2004

Avista needs to look within its own infrastructure to determine where real conservation should occur. This would eliminate any need for utility rate increases.

We respectfully request that the Idaho Public Utilities Commission consider the harsh impact that yet another rate increase will have on the already struggling economy of the Silver Valley.

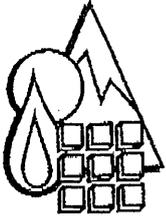
Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard A. Shaffer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Richard A. Shaffer
Director of Operations

RS:sla



IDAHO
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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JUN 18 AM 8:40
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Hearing
Case No. AVU-E-04-01
AVU-G-04-01

Kellogg Id

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you cannot or do not want to testify in person at this hearing but want your opinion noted, please use the space below to write your comments. Add extra sheets as needed. You may either hand this sheet to a commission staff member or mail it to:

IPUC, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074.

You may also post comments on our WebSite.

www.puc.state.id.us

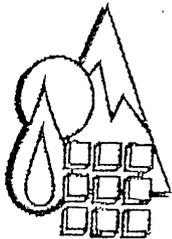
click on "comments & questions."

In 2000 I had to fill out a long census report. At that time my elec & Gas was averaging \$60⁰⁰ a month.

Now I'm being billed at \$112⁰⁰ a month without added appliances.

I live on Social Security & can't live decently with their increases coming up all the time. I don't think these are honest increases.

Print Name Wayne DeHorn Sign Name Wayne DeHorn
Address PO Box 1176 Phone Number 208-682-3172
City and State Pinckney, Id



IDAHO
PUBLIC UTILITIES
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Public Hearing
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Case No. AVU-G-04-01
2008 APR 16 AM 8:39
AVU-G-04-01
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
Kellogg, ID

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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www.puc.state.id.us
click on "comments & questions."

Handwritten comment on lined paper: "I oppose the rate increase requested by Avista."

Print Name Shirley Schwitzberg Sign Name Shirley Schwitzberg
Address PO Box 555 Phone Number 208-752-6311
City and State OSBURN, ID 83849



IDAHO
PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION

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Public Hearing

2001 AUG 18 AM 8:40

Case No. AVU-E-04-01
AVU-G-04-01

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Kellogg Id

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You may also post comments on our WebSite.

www.puc.state.id.us
click on "comments & questions."

Handwritten comment: I oppose the rate increase requested by Avista.

Print Name Tim Bowman Sign Name Tim Bowman
Address PO Box 624 Phone Number 208-556-8026
City and State OSBURN, ID 83849



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PUBLIC UTILITIES
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Public Hearing
Case No. AVU-E-04-01
AVU-G-04-01

Kellogg Id

2004 AUG 13 AM 9:15

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION
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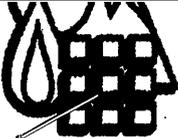
Avista wants to increase the gas & electric rates - again! We cannot afford another increase. My husband is disabled & I don't work, as I care for my 90 yr. old Mother. Three years ago, our gas - electric bill ran \$300. + in the winter. With my husband having to take 18 pills per day, we couldn't afford this, so we started to cut & burn wood again. Avista complains because people are using less of their products that is why. Our son is getting a pellet stove & shutting off his furnace as well. IF these increases continue, I guess we'll have to shut off the electric as well & use our Cole-

Print Name Erma A. Dunn Sign Name Erma A. Dunn

Address P.O. Box 172 Phone Number (208) 752-5403

City and State Osburn ID 83849

man camp lanterns, stove, ice chest etc. IF its a choice of my husbands prescriptions & gas or electric, guess which wins? We become energy efficient as Avista advised us & this is how they reward us?



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

AVU-G-04-01

Kellogg Id

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

2004 AUG 13 AM 9:15

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click on "comments & questions."

I am writing to protest the rates increase from a winter.

I am on a low fixed income, \$707⁰⁰ a month and I truly can not afford another increase. I get physically ill just thinking of winter coming. I'm just one of many senior citizens that can not come up with another penny to pay to a winter. I do not have a alternative source of heat, nor can I afford to install another source.

Please remember that with Idaho, Shoshone County in particular is extremely depressed, with no opportunity to earn a few extra dollars to help over low income. Thank You!

Print Name HELEN WESTCOTT Sign Name Helen Westcott

Address P.O. Box 134
406 E Park Street Phone Number 208 556 4005

City and State Osburn, Idaho 83849



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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2004 AUG 13 AM 9:00

AVU-G-04-01

Kellogg Id

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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The citizens on Social Security Security cannot afford a raise in gas and electricity. I am a widow and my social security check isn't big enough now to make ends meet. I don't keep my house as warm as I would like to. I don't have it warm enough lots of time when the weather is so cold.

Print Name MELANIE HOFMANN Sign Name Melanie Hofmann

Address Box 134 Phone Number 208 556 2471

City and State Silverton Idaho



**PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION**

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AVU-G-04-01

Kellogg Id

2004 AUG 12 AM 8:34

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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click on "comments & questions."

Please do not allow the rates to be increased. I, and many others are on low fixed incomes and are already stretched for past our means. My monthly income is \$781⁰⁰ from Social Security. I am unable to work to supplement this income. I no longer watch TV due to the cost of cable/satellite connections. I use my bedroom A/C only when the heat is intense enough to affect my heart condition. In the winter I bundle up and keep the temp. at about 62°F. I am very frugal with my energy usage. Even when I cook I prepare more than one meal at a time, & refrigerate for later consumption. We have been encouraged for years to use less energy and now we are being penalized for having done just that. I don't see where I can cut back any further. Please don't increase my rates!

Print Name MERILYN ACKERMAN

Sign Name Merilyn Ackerman

Address PO Box 187 (20 Northview)

Phone Number (208) 783-1187

City and State Smelterville, ID 83868