AVU-E-06-08
AVU-E-06-09
AVU-G-06-03

Idaho Utilities Commission

Jim Raffety
Sept. 15, 06

Dear Sirs,

I am requesting that you deny Avista Utilities their request for a rate increase for natural gas and electricity.

I am inclosing two articles from The Lewiston Morning Tribune dated Sept. 15th 06, that I feel justify my request.

A large number of retired people including myself are on fixed incomes and cannot afford continuous rate increases that I feel are unnessary.

On behalf of many people, I hope you take my request under serious consideration.

I am sure the lobbyists are doing their best to influence you.

Thank you,

Sincerely, Jim Raffety
710 Burrelave.
Lewiston, Idaho
83501

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2006 SEP 18 AM 8:10
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

rthwest

Lewiston planners

Day care denied, annexation approved

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FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15, 2006

THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE/WWW.LMTRIBUNE.COM

Avista seeks rate hike in Idaho

Utility asks state to OK increase in natural gas and electricity

By ELAINE WILLIAMS
OF THE TRIBUNE

Staying warm will cost north central Idaho residents more money this winter under a proposed gas and electricity rate hike announced Thursday by Avista.

The increase would start Nov. 1 if approved by the Idaho Utilities Commission.

The utility is requesting a 4.3 percent increase for natural gas that would cost $3.48 per month and bring the total bill to $83.91 for an average customer using 65 therms. Five years ago the same customer would have paid $61.62 per month.

The utility also wants to raise electricity rates by 0.7 percent. An average customer consuming 1,000 kilowatt hours per month would see a 44-cent increase for a total monthly bill of $63.35. Five years ago that same customer spent $1.73 less per month.

The bulk, or 3.2 percent of the gas increase, would cover higher prices, according to an Avista news release. "As a gas distribution company, Avista passes through directly, without markup, changes in natural gas commodity prices to consumers."

The remainder would go to a conservation program that provides partial reimbursement to customers for upgrades such as high efficiency natural gas heaters.

The program saves Avista money by controlling demand for natural gas, limiting how often the company has to go to the open market to buy the commodity, said Catherine Markson, a spokeswoman for the company in Spokane.

The reason Idaho Avista electricity customers would see an increase in rates is because the utility provider will have finished distributing revenue from the 2000 sale of its Centralia, Wash., power plant on Nov. 1.

Avista customers have been receiving a 91-cent monthly credit from the sale.

But that change will be offset because Avista is [illegible] more from the Bonneville Power Administration Residential Exchange program.

BPA is required to share the benefits of its electrical generation with all residents of the Northwest, including those served by utilities such as Avista that don't use any of the power.

Avista has already submitted a similar rate hike proposal for its Washington customers to that state's public utilities commission.

If it's approved, an average Washington Avista customer would pay $1.59 per month more for electricity and $2.96 per month more for gas.

Over time, rate payers spend about the same amount for gas and electricity in both states, Markson said.

State rules are the reason the rates aren't identical, Markson said.

When Avista spends more than it estimates it will need for electricity or gas, one state might allow the utility to recoup the expense from customers faster than the other, Markson said.

There are other differences too, Markson said.

For instance, Washington requires customers to pay for a program that helps low-income households, Markson said.

Williams may be contacted at ewilliam@lmtribune.com or at (208) 743-9600, ext. 261.

MARKETS

Stocks end mixed as blue chips fall, tech stocks make slight gain

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Wall Street closed mixed Thursday, with blue chips falling and technology stocks managing a slight gain while investors tussled with their concerns about inflation and the overall health of the economy.

Lower oil prices that have helped drive stock rallies in recent days remained a bright spot, but another drop in crude Thursday wasn't enough to offset investor concerns about inflation ahead of next week's Federal Reserve meeting. Investors grew uneasy Thursday after the Labor Department reported import prices rose a larger than expected 0.8 percent in August.

The Commerce Department said sales rose an anemic 0.2 percent last month, and although Wall Street expected a decline, some investors worried that consumer spending was losing momentum. The modest increase in retail sales followed a 1.4 percent rise in July.

Oil prices fell even after the United States reported a drop in crude inventories on Wednesday. A barrel of crude fell 75 cents to settle at $63.22 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Natural gas futures for October fell to their lowest level in two years after the Energy Department released figures showing stores of natural gas were much larger than expected.

Bonds fell, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.79 percent from 4.76 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was up against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

More economic news came from the Labor Department, which reported that the number of Americans filing claims for unemployment benefits fell to 308,000 last week, down by 5,000 from the previous week. The drop pushed claims to a seven-week low.

Market Watch

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006

Dow Jones industrials	-15.93	11,527.39
Standard & Poor's 500	-1.79	1,316.28
Nasdaq composite	+1.06	2,228.73
Russell 2000	-3.10	727.60

Associated Press

A string of strong profit reports this week from investment banks continued as Bear Stearns Cos. reported better-than-expected results, up $3.46 at $139.68.

General Electric Co. said it struck a deal to sell a majority stake in its advanced materials unit to private investment group Apollo Management LP in a deal it valued at $3.8 billion. The conglomerate said it plans to use expected proceeds of about $2 billion to restructure its industrial business. GE was down 6 cents at $34.78.

Blue chips came under pressure however after UBS, the investment bank, lowered its rating on GE and Boeing Co. UBS cut its rating on GE to "neutral" from "buy" and reduced its call on Boeing to "reduce" from "neutral." Boeing was down $1.31 at $75.01.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where preliminary consolidated volume came to 2.4 billion shares, compared with 2.68 billion traded Wednesday.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 1.22 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 closed down 0.25 percent, Germany's DAX index was up 0.02 percent, and France's CAC-40 was off 0.27 percent.