

✓ Gen Ask  
sent 4/21/08

✓ To AV.

✓ To Commis  
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4-14-08  
Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
P.O. Box 83720  
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

RECEIVED  
2008 APR 17 AM 8:15  
IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing this letter because it is not only the concern for me (a person over 65 and a widow), but for all older citizens who want to continue living in their homes. We are human beings who wish to live out our lives in our own homes, and don't want to live in nursing homes which are "holding pens" for funeral homes. We are being sadistically and slowly pushed out because of rising costs especially our heat (gas) and electric bills.

I realize that Sandpoint, Idaho is now being called a "resort town", and companies like Avista looks at North Idaho as a play ground for the rich. Therefore, Avista continues to find any excuse to raise its rates. The so called rich can afford rate increases, but many who live here year around young and old are hurting and hurting badly.

This winter my heat was turned down to 65\* -it was not always comfortable, and I tried to cut back on my electric bill. I found out that if I turned my heat down to 64\* I saved even more money. At 64\* I was totally uncomfortable. Even all the savings I tried , my rates continued to be high. However, my rich neighbors who are only here in the summer had 4-6 outdoor lights on for many hours at night all year long. What is wrong with this picture?

I noticed in the Avista bill, they have a little blurb on the upper right hand side which says, "When it comes to energy efficiency every little bit adds up." So , when some of us work hard to conserve and when it is working for some of us ,despite the hardship, Avista comes in to increase the rates to cover the loss in conservation. It is one, unholy game. I realize there are costs incurred in running a business, Dumb and Dumber is not working here, but when does Avista become a responsible, good citizen and tighten its belt? I am certain that the uncreative bosses are sitting at home at night and enjoying their nice warm homes on a cold night.

I need to ask, a couple- of- weeks ago Avista announced in the "Bonner County Daily Bee" that they were looking at putting natural gas into the Sagle area. Are the rest of us subsidizing this venture? Make those folks in Sagle cover their own expenses not on the backs of rate payers in Sandpoint.

Why is it that every time Avista asks for an increase it seems that the Commission bows to Avista's request?

I am asking that the Commission ask the tough questions and take the time to research the requests for increases. Please represents ~~the~~ all the people in North Idaho not just the large companies that only see the need for "GREED".

Please look over articles-doesn't make sense. Thank you

Olive A. Harris  
P.O. Box 1682  
Sandpoint, ID 83864-0871

Donner County (Daily) 4-05-08

# Avista seeking electric, gas rate hikes

SPOKANE — Avista Utilities is asking the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for approval to increase residential electric bills by 15.9 percent and natural gas bills by 6.5 percent.

An average residential customer using 977 kilowatt hours of electricity per month would see a \$10.70 per month increase for a revised monthly bill of \$78.08. Other electric customers would see an increase between 15.4 percent and 16.5 percent.

The average residential natural gas customer who uses 65 therms per month would see a \$4.91 increase, for a revised monthly bill of \$80.05. Larger commercial natural gas customers would see no more than a 3.3 percent increase.

The IPUC generally has up to seven months to review a general rate case filing.

Avista officials said the requested electric rate increase is driven primarily by significant increases in fuel and purchased power costs to meet growing customer demand and by investments made to upgrade aging infrastructure to increase its capacity and reliability.

Significant investments in generation and delivery systems have been made since Idaho base rates were last adjusted in fall 2004. The investments include upgrades to the Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge hydroelectric projects and Colstrip thermal projects to improve efficiency, reliability and generating output.

In the past five-years Avista has invested more than \$130 million to upgrade and reinforce the electric transmission system in northern Idaho and eastern Washington. Upgrades to many

transmission and distribution substations, power lines and related equipment are ongoing.

Also since fall 2004, overall system power supply expenses have increased by \$94.3 million due to growing customer demand and increased costs for generating, purchasing and delivering electricity to customers.

Costs incurred in the seven-year public process to relicense Avista's hydroelectric projects on the Spokane River are also included in the request.

The projects annually generate a combined 105 average megawatts of renewable energy or enough energy to power about 68,000 homes for a year. To date, Avista has invested \$21 million in the Spokane River relicensing process.

See AVISTA, Page 3

## AVISTA

Continued from Page 1

Scott Morris, Avista's chairman of the board, president and chief executive officer, said the capital projects are part of the company's multi-year plan to increase the efficiency, reliability and capacity of its aging infrastructure as well as meet growing customer demand with responsible energy resources and new environmental standards.

"Our priority is to cost effec-

tively and safely deliver reliable energy to our customers. To do that, we are focused on managing our costs by gaining more energy from our existing facilities and by implementing efficiencies throughout our operations to benefit customers," said Morris.

"Avista, and the utility industry as a whole, is facing significant increases in the cost of doing business due in part to major increases in the cost of steel, copper, aluminum and cement. These materials, which are key com-

ponents in utility equipment, have a major impact on our construction and maintenance costs."

Driving the natural gas rate request is Avista's investment in upgrading the Jackson Prairie Natural Gas Storage Facility. The ability to purchase and store more natural gas during the summer months when prices are typically lower lessens the need to purchase natural gas during the winter months when prices, and customer demand, tend to be higher.

The requested increases are designed to produce \$32.3 million in additional revenue for electric service and \$4.7 million in revenue for natural gas service.

The request is based on a proposed rate of return on rate base of 8.74 percent, with a common equity ratio of 47.9 percent and a 10.8 percent return on equity.

# Avista OKs rate decline

COEUR d'ALENE — Avista residential and small-farm customers in Washington and Idaho will receive a decrease of 4.1 percent and 9.9 percent respectively on their monthly electric bill effective Friday through October.

Customers using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month will see a decrease of \$2.90 in Washington and \$6.98 in Idaho.

The amount varies between states because of the elimination of a surcharge in Idaho that was not in place in Washington.

See AVISTA, Page 3

## AVISTA

Continued from Page 1

The program, which was suspended in May 2007, provides Avista and five other investor-owned utilities in the Pacific Northwest with a share of the benefits of the Federal Columbia River Power System. Prior to May 2007,

Avista customers received just over \$20 million annually in program benefits.

"We're very glad to be passing through this credit to our customers. We'll continue working with BPA toward a permanent reinstatement of

the Residential Exchange Program that will restore to our customers their fair share of the Federal Columbia River Power System," said Kelly Norwood, Avista's vice president of state and federal regulation.

✓ Men Ack  
sent 4/22/08

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commrs.  
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# To Whom It Concerns

I am writing to appeal to you, the Commission to deny Avista's request to raise our Avista rates again.

RECEIVED  
2008 APR 17 AM 8:17  
UTAH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

I am on a fixed income, S.S.I., most of the time my parents need to help me pay my bill because it is already too high. I only get \$630 per month. Sometimes my Avista bill is at least half of that. We need our rates reduced, not made higher.

Do those people wanting to raise our rates have to live on \$630 monthly? They should try it, then they might have a clue how hard it is to keep your lights on.

Sincerely,

Gary Frank jr.

P.O. Box 375  
Mullan Ida  
83846

\$ 630  
- 285  

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345  
Avista  
Left for  
The month

✓ Ken Berk  
sent 4/21/08

Mo AV.

To Commis  
iH

Dear Public Utilities Commission

My name is Florence Dinius  
I am a widow and am on  
a fixed income. I am writing  
to you to plead with you  
to Deny the request of  
Avista to raise our rates  
once again. Is it not your  
people's responsibility to look  
out for the consumers?

We have really long and  
cold winters and we are still  
having winter in April.

I can hardly afford my  
bill now as it is.

Please don't let them  
raise our electric bill?

Thank you for your time.

Florence  
Dinius  
P.O. Box 69

Mullan Ida  
83846

P.S.

It would be really nice if we  
could have our rates lowered  
instead.

RECEIVED  
2008 APR 21 AM 8:35  
IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

✓ Ken Beck  
sent 4/22/08

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.  
5/14

RECEIVED

To Whom it may Concern

2008 APR 17 AM 8:17

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Sandy Frank and Gary Frank SR  
and the people in Mullan Ida  
are writing to request that  
you DENY the request of  
Arista Utilities to raise our rates  
again. We are sick and tired of  
our Arista bill getting higher,  
how about lowering or  
reducing our rates? Does  
Arista Utilities not know  
how many customers are on  
a fixed income? Do they not  
care? I hope the Utilities  
Commission will care? So  
many people can't hardly pay  
their bill as it is now. I'll  
bet you a \$1,000,000,000 that  
these very people who want to  
raise the rates on their customers  
do not even know what a fixed  
income is!, or how paying a  
power bill means to do without  
food or medicine or ect...  
but anyhow I'll bet they  
earn at least \$50,000 - \$100,000  
a year. I would like to know how  
much money those people have.

✓ Over

SST \$660  
Aviso 280  
380

380

Deny the whole  
request of Aviso month

Sincerely

Sandy Frank

P.O. Box

267  
Mullon Ido

✓ Gen. Ask  
sent 4/21/08

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.  
3/11

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** ksyrach@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2008 5:00 AM  
**To:** Tonya Clark; Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Beth Farner follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-08-01  
Name: Beth Farner  
Address: 1007 Pine St  
City: Sandpoint  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83864  
Daytime Telephone: 208-946-4943  
Contact E-Mail: [ksyrach@verizon.net](mailto:ksyrach@verizon.net)  
Name of Utility Company: Avista  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I understand that Avista is asking for a rate increase for it's Idaho customers. I understand that rate increases are a part of life. A 21.9% seems to be a little excessive and would impose a considerable jump in our rates. I would ask that if they need a rate increase that is fine however, a more reasonable increase that would be more fair to everyone would be suggested. It would be difficult for many of us in Idaho, especially seniors on fixed incomes.

Thanks you for your time,  
Beth Farner

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 70.110.52.222

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✓ Men Ask  
sent 4/21/08

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.  
H

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** DCJ1938@AOL.CO,  
**Sent:** Monday, April 21, 2008 4:58 AM  
**To:** Tonya Clark; Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from DALLAS C. JOHNSON follows:

-----  
Case Number: AVU-E-08-01  
Name: DALLAS C. JOHNSON  
Address: 291 JEFFREY DRIVE  
City: SANDPOINT  
State: ID  
Zip: 83864  
Daytime Telephone: 208-265-9516  
Contact E-Mail: DCJ1938@AOL.CO,  
Name of Utility Company: AVISTA  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

HOW DOES AVISTA DESERVE A 21% INCREASE IN COMBINES GAS/ELECTRIC. MY WIFE AND MY SOCIAL SECURITY GOT A SMALL COST OF LIVING THIS YEAR THAT AFTER THE INCREASE IN MEDICARE & MEDICARE D SHE ENDED UP WITH \$3.00 LESS AND I ENDED UP WITH \$10.00 MORE AND WITH THE OTHER COST OF LIVING INCREASES WE BOTH ENDED UP IN THE HOLE. SINCE THIS IS OUR ONLY INCOME WE CAN NOT AFFORD HIGHER GAS AND ELECTRIC RATES AND WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE SALARY'S THE HEADS OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OTHERS GET AT AVISTA WHY DON'T THEY TAKE A WAGE DECREASE INSTEAD?

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 207.200.116.203

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