

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comm. H

✓ Gen. H. Pickard  
sent 4/21/09

**JOHN C and IRMA B PICKARD**

**P.O. Box 62  
13610 S Cataldo Drive  
Cataldo, Id 83810  
208.682.2175**

**E-mail: johncp@imbris.net**

**April 18, 2009**

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

**Re: Avista's request for a rate increase**

**Dear Commission:**

**I am responding on the rate increase and upcoming workshop being held in North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on June 17, 2009.**

**For all good Avista has done for the community by keeping power grids working and ensuring natural gas users had plenty to use either commercially or residential, I really don't want to write a negative letter about their proposal.**

**Rate Increase: When you look at past increases and the proposed increase that is going to compound on the others, cost is becoming prohibitive. In Cataldo, the medium age is approximately 68. This is not a guess but information gathered by asking people their age. I am 72. We are all on fixed incomes. The circuit breaker program Avista sponsor is satisfactory but is not formulated long enough. But the program is helpful**

**I am suggesting a cost adjustment for seniors and disability people. Take my income. With an income of \$550 minus prescription (\$220), medical insurance (\$281) per month, leaves \$49 allowance for the whole month.**

**I hate to use the word "something" because it denotes procrastinations. Let there be a program instituted, an income producing formula, for Avista that will help their consumers.**

**In my former life I was a Credit Manager for thirty years. I became disabled at the age of 55. I lost my social security quarters and thus the minimum amount Social Security is being paid out. My wife was fortunate and was able build quarters so an amount is paid to give us some comfort.**

**In my business years I saw consumers fall economically due to power bills and taxes and payments. Some would come to me and borrow money and if they could prove repayment, then money was paid to borrower to consolidate their bills so utilities and taxes could be paid. Little did they know a hole was dug**

**deeper for them? If they did not repay their loan, that hole became deeper. I know by company experience debt consolidation can alleviate money problems.**

**I am suggesting Avista formulate a prorated factor for seniors that will help them maintain their dignity and pay the utility company that served them so well for years.**

**Let me be clear. I am not symptomatic of Avista Utilities become a finance company. Just prorate the utility cost for seniors.**

**There is a definite need for cost adjustments and not increases. Welfare is not the answer and that is not what I am asking for. Dignity is what I am asking for.**

**Meetings: Why are not the workshops held in respective areas? Coeur d'Alene is fine for those that live in that area. We live in the Silver Valley. Gas is \$2.25 a gallon and the expense too great for some of us to even spend \$5.00 for expense to Coeur d'Alene. Round trip from my house to the Court house is 47 miles. Pinehurst and Kellogg is further.**

**My point it would be better for Avista to hold workshop in Pinehurst and then Wallace so personal consumer parties can be heard without the expense of gas and oil. Forget about shopping, what senior has any cash left over.**

**I hope you will consider my suggestions and find a way for seniors to live with dignity and the comfort of natural gas and/or electricity. Avista does a great job providing it.**

**Thank you for reading my letter I ask that it be placed in Avista's hearing file and acted upon.**

**Sincerely,**



**John C Pickard**

**CC: file**

✓ Gen. Bk  
sent 4/21/09

✓ To AV

✓ To Comm. : H

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** stevepaint@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2009 6:52 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from steven painter follows:

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Case Number: *AVU-E-09-01/AVU-G-09-01*  
Name: steven painter  
Address: 12295 Grand Ave.  
City: Orofino  
State: ID  
Zip: 83544  
Daytime Telephone: 208 476 5022  
Contact E-Mail: [stevepaint@verizon.net](mailto:stevepaint@verizon.net)  
Name of Utility Company: steven painter  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I cannot express my displeasure enough on Avista's requested rate increase. Their rate of .08050 cents a kwh is overwhelming on us retirees. I think it's time to go back to what we had a few years ago and that is wood heat. Even propane has come down to where it costs less to heat my house. Please reject this latest request of Avista.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 68.238.130.138

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✓ Ben Acke  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commms.  
§ H

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** loisw46@usamedia.tv  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 19, 2009 5:10 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Lois Warren follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-09-01                      AVU-G-09-01  
Name: Lois Warren  
Address: 117 E. Park Ave.  
City: Kellogg  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83837  
Daytime Telephone: 208-784-5761  
Contact E-Mail: [loisw46@usamedia.tv](mailto:loisw46@usamedia.tv)  
Name of Utility Company: Avista Utilities Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I am writing today in regard to Avista's rate increase. I do hope you will take into consideration how this will affect all of us. My husband and I are on social security and I just don't know how many more of these rate increases we can handle. I was always taught that when you owned the company and wanted to make up grades or improvements or repairs, it was to come out of the profits. But it seems that Avista never uses their profits for anything but raises and stockholders. I don't mind if company's get raises but I'm not getting any and yet I have to pay for theirs. I also saw on TV and read in the paper that natural gas prices are the lowest that they have been for years and that everyone's bills should be lower next winter. Does this not apply to us too? Are they not taking advantage of those low rates? I always shop for bargains, don't they? I sincerely hope you will tell them to tighten their belts like the rest of have to. Thank you for your time. Mr. and Mrs Gary Warren

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 72.47.153.56

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✓ Ben Acke  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comments  
JH

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** tigerskin\_83815@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2009 5:23 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Kenneh Clark follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-09-01  
Name: Kenneh Clark  
Address: 833 S. Division  
City: Kellogg  
State: ID  
Zip: 83837  
Daytime Telephone: 209-819-5642  
Contact E-Mail: tigerskin\_83815@yahoo.com Name of Utility Company: Avista Add to Mailing  
List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I think the rate increase would be very inappropriate at this time. Since our economy is in a recession, we all have to tighten our belts. Including the millionaires that run Avista.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 24.32.202.17

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✓ Gen Ack  
sent 4/28/09

✓ No AV.

✓ To Commis  
H

Jean Jewell

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**From:** Cdanow@verizon.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2009 4:12 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from JIM ALEXANDER follows:

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Case Number: AVU -E-09-01&AVU-G-09-01  
Name: JIM ALEXANDER  
Address: 600 W HUBBARD #38  
City: COEUR D ALENE  
State: IDaho  
Zip: 83814  
Daytime Telephone: 666 1990  
Contact E-Mail: Cdanow@verizon.net  
Name of Utility Company: AVISTA  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

RATE INCREASES? WHAT ARE THESE GUYS THINKING ? EVERYTING IN THE FREE WORLD IS CHEAPER TODAY THAN IT WAS YESTERDAY . CONCRETE, STEEL, COPPER DIESIEL AND GASOLINE ARE ALL OF THEIR HIGHERS. WHY DO THEY NOT USE THE COST DIFFERENCE TO COVER THEIR COSTS . OH YES THE COST SAVING ALL WENT INTO THE CEO'S POCKET FOR HIS BONUS --WHAT WAS I THINKING. WE ARE NOT ALL THE DUMMYS THAT AVISTA THINKS WE ARE SAY NO THEY WILL FIND THE WAY TO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN THANKS  
JIM ALEXANDER

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 70.110.39.58  
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✓ Gen Ack  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To KV.

✓ To Commis.  
? H

Jean Jewell

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**From:** karo995505@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2009 3:35 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Karen Woods follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-09-01  
Name: Karen Woods  
Address: 315 E. Market Ave.  
City: Kellogg  
State: ID  
Zip: 83837  
Daytime Telephone: 208-783-9221  
Contact E-Mail: [karo995505@aol.com](mailto:karo995505@aol.com)  
Name of Utility Company: Avista  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

Sir, I find it absolutely immoral for Avista to be asking for a rate increase at this time. So many people are having a hard enough time as it is, to be asking them for more money on their utility bill is outrageous. Maybe Avista could cut back on their expenses by not giving bonus'. Also, what have they been doing with the profits they have been making through out the past years?

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 24.32.202.178

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✓ Gen Ack  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To Commis  
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**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** rharlocker@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2009 3:15 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Reid Harlocker follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-09-01  
Name: Reid Harlocker  
Address: 1635 E Miles Ave  
City: Hayden Lake  
State: ID  
Zip: 83835  
Daytime Telephone: 208-661-4286  
Contact E-Mail: [rharlocker@hotmail.com](mailto:rharlocker@hotmail.com)  
Name of Utility Company: Avista  
Add to Mailing List: no

Please describe your comment briefly:

At this time I am in opposition to the any rate increases proposed by Avista for anything other than cost of goods.

Currently energy materials futures markets are trending lower and it is presumed will continue to do so throughout this unprecedented economic distress. It would be unfavorable for the utility to presume that its customer base can afford to shoulder their plans for expansion, and especially where it is related to "new business" expectations and commitments.

The utility should in my personally opinion operate like a normal business where expansion is concerned and pay those costs forward by selling bonds, share offering or a reduction in dividend.

Nowhere do I see any potential in this proposal to increase the wages of their own hourly employees who are faced with the similar economic woes as the utilities customer base. Therefore I must come to the conclusion that the board of directors and management are generally only concerned about their personal compensation and keeping the investors happy, how shameful is that?

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 98.145.84.141

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✓ Ben Ask  
sent 4/20/09  
Jean Jewell

✓ No Comments  
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**From:** FAKLC@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2009 2:55 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Laurie Coyle follows:

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Case Number: ? Gas rate hike  
Name: Laurie Coyle  
Address: 6010 E. Frazier Drive  
City: Post Falls  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83854  
Daytime Telephone: 208 773 2670  
Contact E-Mail: [FAKLC@aol.com](mailto:FAKLC@aol.com)  
Name of Utility Company: AVISTA  
Add to Mailing List: no

Please describe your comment briefly:

Avista is requesting a nearly 8% raise to gas customers even with the price of natural gas is approaching historic lows.

Avista has a string of quarterly profit records nearly five years long.

Avista's 10K indicates that their core investors are corporate insiders and hedge funds, not independent investors as their marketing department would like you to think.

The company claims that they need to "recover costs to upgrade the system" caused by increased demand from "new customers". Is this a bad thing? In the real world companies can't just pass the costs for new customers along to the existing customer base, unless of course they are a "monopoly".

Nowhere in the rate request are provisions to pay the company's hourly workers more money or provide better benefits. When CEO Scott Morris who currently earns more than 66 times the average hourly wage earner in North Idaho does that seem fair and equitable?

I do not feel this is fair to raise the rates at this point in time of our current economic conditions.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 72.37.171.28  
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✓ Gen Ack  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To AV

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**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** skravik@msn.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2009 2:57 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Sandra Kravik follows:

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Case Number: AVU-G-09-01  
Name: Sandra Kravik  
Address: 10721 N. Friar Dr.  
City: Hayden Lake  
State: ID  
Zip: 83835  
Daytime Telephone: 208-699-6400  
Contact E-Mail: [skravik@msn.com](mailto:skravik@msn.com)  
Name of Utility Company: Avista  
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

In response to Avista's 'need' for a rate increase, I will share with you that my husband receives royalties from several natural gas wells on land he owns in northern Montana. He now receives 10% of what he received 4 years ago. Why? The price of natural gas has plummeted in excess of 75%, and the energy companies have drilled in excess of 148,000 wells in the U.S. In other words, natural gas is cheap and plentiful. That Avista can ask for an increase in natural gas rates for its customers in these circumstances is ludicrous. Nor is this the time to increase executive compensation and stockholder dividends. Few corporations in the country are so insensitive as to be doing this at this time of economic crisis in this country. The number of Avista customers struggling to make their utility payments far exceeds the needs of a few well paid executives; those who could afford to purchase Avista stock as an investment are also more able to financial deal with smaller dividends than customers are able to deal with bigger utility bills. Thank you for considering these thoughts as you decide on Avista's request.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 65.54.154.13

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✓ Gen Ack  
sent 4/20/09

✓ To Comments  
:H

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** bob541@roadrunner.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2009 6:59 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Robert Silva follows:

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Case Number: AVU-E-09-01 / AVU-G-09-01  
Name: Robert Silva  
Address: 2217 E. Hayden View Dr.  
City: Coeur d'Alene  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83815  
Daytime Telephone: 208-660-4834  
Contact E-Mail: bob541@roadrunner.com  
Name of Utility Company: Avista  
Add to Mailing List: no

Please describe your comment briefly:

I have a problem with Avista's request for a substantial rate increase. They indicate they made a substantial profit last year. They have apparently not learned a lesson from other large companies with bonuses and pay increase's. They have given their top management huge pay increases while at the same time raising our rates!!

The new rate increase basically wipes out around 50% of Obama's tax decrease that he has touted. I believe the average person can help the economy more by having no further increase in utility cost.

Say no to Avista's rate increase.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 24.32.250.80

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