

✓ Ken Ask
about 5/6/09

✓ To AV

May 2

✓ To Commis.
: H

TO: Commissioner Jim Kempton and anyone else who can help.

RE: Avista Bills and rate raises;

It is time that someone stepped in and put a stop to all the rate hikes that they want to make. All because they had to time all their CEOs and Board members a large raise. Those getting large raises were Morris, Malquist, Durkin, Felles, and Meyer. They can accept a raise like that and those of us who are "fixed" income are having to cut back and go without medications, etc. in order to pay our Avista bill. They are crying that they just don't have enough coming in to meet their expenses. Well neither do I. Then an article comes out in the paper just last week stating that their Avista profits, just through the month of March this year, was #31 million. So why do they need to raise their rates when they are making profits like that. We sure are not.

We turned our heat way down this winter and just put on more sweaters to keep warm in the house and it didn't seem to help in our bills at all. Why not, if there are people who cannot pay their bill, some of these people I listed above could offer to pay the bill for them. Am sure they have the money to do so. Would like to see them, just for one month, try to live on what us people on fixed incomes live on. Doubt they could do it.

So I am asking that someone put a stop to all this raise hike and make them help those of us who are not able to pay high prices without cutting something else out. Please HELP.

Bernie + Ed Major

SP-120

Avista executive pay rises

Incentive payouts increase as revenue picks up

By BILL BULEY
Staff writer

COEUR d'ALENE — A good year for Avista Corp. in meeting its goals in 2008 resulted in more incentive pay for its top executives.

The company filed its annual proxy statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission on Tuesday.



Morris

The total incentive pay in 2008 for five Avista executives was nearly \$850,000, up dramatically from \$135,000 in 2007.

The total compensation for Scott Morris, chairman

see AVISTA, A2

Avista profits increase

Company still asking for rate increase

By RICK THOMAS
Staff writer

Profits at Avista Corp. rose in the first quarter of 2009 to almost exactly the amount the company is seeking in increased electric rates.

The company on Wednesday reported profits of \$31 million through March, compared to net income of \$25.2 million in the first quarter of 2008. Avista is seeking an increase of \$31.2 million in its annual electric revenue.

"We had a strong first

see AVISTA, A2

✓ Ben Acke
sent 5/6/09

✓ To AV.

✓ To Commis.
; H

To: Commissioner Jim Kempton

RECEIVED
2009 MAY -6 AM 8:20

Re: Avista rate increase

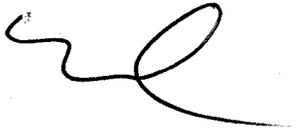
I am writing to express my position against the proposed Avista rate increase. I, like many others today, are experiencing very tough financial times. Many of us are having a difficult time simply paying the bills, yet Avista request a rate increase during a time of recession. Nearly everything in our daily lives has had an increase in cost, including gas, groceries, sales tax, utility rates and the endless other items which cost have increased. We are simply being nickel and dimed to death every time we turn around. My utility bills are at record highs despite every effort to conserve. This is not the time to increase any cost for the citizens who use their services. Please consider the many who have been laid off, lost their homes or are otherwise financially struggling.

Below is factual information which clearly justify NO LEGITIMATE NEED for a rate increase:

- 1) Avista reported this week profits of \$31 million through March, compared with a net income of \$25.2 million the first quarter of 2008.
- 2) Profits at Avista Corp. rose in the first quarter of 2009 to almost exactly the amount the company is seeking in increased electric rates.
- 3) A statement quote from Scott L. Morris, Avista Chairman, President and CEO: "We had a strong first quarter and are off to a great start in 2009," "Even with the decline in the economy, we saw approximately 1 percent growth in both electric and natural gas customers during the first quarter of 2009 as compared to the first quarter of 2008."
- 4) Because of snow pack conditions and projected stream flows, Avista expects hydroelectric generation to be near normal for 2009.
- 5) Per Mr. Morris, "We are also experiencing lower purchased power and fuel prices, as well as a decrease in natural gas costs,".
- 6) In 2008, Avista's net income was \$73.6 million. In 2007 it was \$38.5 million.
- 7) Avista has continually raised rates while their profits increase.

Many people I know are, for the first time, not able to pay their utility bills in full. I know, I am one of these people due to the recent rate increases. For the first time in my life, I have not been able to pay my bill in full and must carry over the balance. Based on the above information, there is no possible way a rate increase is needed or justified. In fact, a rate decrease is in order and supported by the above information. There is a difference between running a profitable business and greed. This is nothing more than greed on behalf of Avista.

Thank you;
Brian Hirzel
737 E. Roundup Circle
Hayden, Id.83835
Bwhirzel@yahoo.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'BH', written in a cursive style.

✓ Gen. Ask
sent 5/6/09

✓ To AV.

✓ To Commis.
: H

Suzanne A Browning
1042 W Scarcello Road
Rathdrum ID 83858
amelia4gsus@gmail.com
208/660-8821

RECEIVED
2009 MAY -6 AM 8:19
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 3, 2009

Commissioner Jim Kempton
Idaho PUC
PO Box 83720
Boise ID 83720-0074



Mr. Commissioner:

As you well know, the economy is not in the best condition. Our country is in terrible debt and our new president expects the future tax payers to pay off this debt, your children, grandchildren and mine.

Yet in this time of crisis, Avista has chosen to ask for a rate increase in their gas and electric utilities. As you do this, it is my hope that you have weighted the consequences as to the debilitating affect this will have on many of the citizens that are low income, fixed income and the unemployed.

My husband and I are in the fixed income category. We budget tightly and manage to have a little left over after the month. We are blessed. However, have you thought what this increase will do to the citizens I mentioned above. Many have children or grandchildren to feed, keep warm, and clothed. Many of their budgets are already stretched as far as possible.

I can validate an increase if it was truly needed. From the reports on TV and in the newspaper, it reads like an AIG copy. To afford the CEO's of Avista huge bonuses and then ask for a rate increase is totally illogical. Where are your common sense and your compassion? Maybe you slept through that meeting or class in school or allowed our changed society to dictate your decisions.

Please review your necessity of this rate increase. Is this a justified move?

Sincerely,


Suzanne Browning

✓ Gen Ack
sent 5/4/09

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis
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RECEIVED

May 3, 2009

2009 MAY -6 AM 8:21

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

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Ref:Avista Rate Request

I am enclosing a copy of my Coeur d'Alene Press article that expresses the majority opinion of most rate payers serviced by Avista Utilities in Kootenai County area. The Press ran articles sent in by many residents expressing their disgust with a public utility and a monopoly that says one thing and does just the opposite. They claimed to be practicing a conservative and economical operation at the same time paying out for a ½ page propaganda ad in the Idaho and Washington areas and signed by the same CEO and his next in line henchman who received the excessive bonuses and pay increases. The cost for these propaganda ads could have been used to reduce their gas and electric rates further. These excessive bonuses are not paid primarily by shareholders, but from the monthly income that the rate payers are billed where operating budgets, payroll, bonuses, utility equipment, advertising and shareholder quarterly dividends are put in specific accounts. Avista spends many thousands in advertising revenue and didn't convince any of us rate payers the point they were trying to get across in their many newspaper ads. All utilities are monopolies and the average rate payer gets disgusted when they spend thousands to change and insulate their homes and just continue to see their utility bills keep increasing.

Our heating bill during the long winter months this year continued to stay high even when we put on warmer clothing and more blankets and turned down the thermostat below 65 degrees. Each month it was \$385. to \$400. for someone older, and with an 86 yr. old female and both on fixed incomes. When Avista needs additional revenue, they just increase your utility bill. The rate payers are forced to rely on an accurate meter

Cont. (2)

reading since most don't have the foggiest how to figure their own monthly usage. I once had my electric utility provider in Calif. tell me everything was 100% OK when all at once, my electricity billing suddenly jumped by 20% from the previous month and continued so. Nothing new had been added, daily usage hadn't changed after filing my complaint. They checked my meter and sent me a letter stating my meter was within tolerances. My bill continued to stay high. I requested another meter check and a meter change while I stayed home from my employment. The old meter was lab checked and found to have been running 6% fast. This after getting my tolerance letter that everything was OK. This is the honesty of the utilities.

When Avista and any utility applies for a rate increase, they just raise the amount they really want higher, knowing it's basically like a legal law suit when someone sues someone or entity in court for a specific amount. They just raise or double the amount of the suit, knowing they will probably only end up getting awarded a lower percentage. This is common sense thinking.

Avista doesn't need additional revenue or a rate increase, they just need to eliminate or lower the bonuses and cut corners like the rest of us are doing in a recession period. If Avista's top 5 executives can't live on their inflated salaries, then they need to step down and look for other employment. Let someone leaner minded and more understanding of life step in.

Thanking you for your understanding, please.

Respectfully,

**Bill Singleton
7507 E. High View Rd.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
CC-FILES (3)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Singleton", written over a white background.

SECTION

C

Local

MY TURN

from C1

year increased by \$715,000 between just five executives and during these recession times, and they're still asking for rate increases in gas and electric, this should increase the distrust and let us see the one-sided community commitment. Should anyone be surprised to see this happening with utilities when they are only out to increase their stockholders' dividends and increase their rate payers base?

GARDEN:

'Bare root' can apply to any plant material / C4

My Turn

Avista: Our AIG and Exxon- Mobil

By BILL SINGLETON
Special to The Press

The topping on the cake was Bill Buley's article on Avista President and CEO Scott Morris getting a \$173,847 base salary increase, and an overall salary of \$2.2 million. This really on the backs of the rate payers and still asking for an electric rate increase of 7.8 percent along with a 3 percent increase in natural gas rates.

Avista claims they're aggressively continuing to manage their cost. I would ask where? They are a monopoly with very little controls. Part of this cost control was exhibited recently with a half-page propaganda ad titled "A Letter to the Community," which asked rate payers for trust and understanding. This ad was signed by CEO Morris and President Vermillion under their "managing their cost" propaganda. When a utility needs extra revenue, they have a built-in source when the average rate payer has no idea if they

are being gouged or even how to figure their billing. ~~able to cover their utility bills,~~ and many others asking for help, and Avista executives getting pay increases of the magnitude in Bill Buley's article, this doesn't make Avista appear very trustworthy. This really looks like another AIG. When most others are being asked to economize and tighten their belts, Avista management appears to be buying a bigger sized belt.

Our monthly utility bills, with two quite elderly residents out of three, even with weatherizing, wearing additional clothing and lowering the thermostat, averaged \$375 per month. We were told that our gas meter was illegal for being under a decking that was built by the previous owner two years prior, which cost us an unexpected \$500. When we asked the Avista rep why it had to be moved since it was still accessible, his reply was because they knew about it now and it had to be moved to the outside wall of the garage. Avista sent two trucks, three workers — one a supervisor — on the day we had scheduled with a heating company to handle the re-piping. With their digging and pipe-attaching, this job could have been handled by two.

When you read that Avista's incentive pay from the previous

I've never been a big believer in government controls, but with monopolies and fuel suppliers, something has to be done to protect the American citizens from getting outdistanced beyond their incomes. Especially those retired on fixed incomes.

The world's oil companies control a fuel supply that our present automobiles cannot operate without. They control all phases from drilling, pumping, transporting, refining and distributing and they control the supply and demand.

With utilities, natural gas is generally the highest during the cold weather months, and when the hot summer months get here, you watch your electricity bill increase. Luckily, here in Coeur d'Alene, your water bill stays pretty reasonable during all seasons of the year without claims of shortages. God bless America and we just have to keep voicing our opinions and voting for those who can create changes for the better.

Bill Singleton is a Coeur d'Alene resident.

see MY TURN, C5

✓ Ken Hark
sent 5/4/09

✓ To AV

✓ To Commms
:H

Jean Jewell

From: cavanaughjrpa@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:33 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from James R. Cavanaugh follows:

Case Number: AVU-E--9=01
Name: James R. Cavanaugh
Address: 4048 E. 2nd Ave., Apt A
City: Post Falls Idaho
State: Idaho
Zip: 83854
Daytime Telephone: 208-661-7631
Contact E-Mail: cavanaughjrpa@msn.com
Name of Utility Company: Avista
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

With the profit they had for 2008 and the very high salary increases they gave to the top employees I can't see why the consumer should have to bear the the cost of the salary increases!

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 75.216.121.100

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 5/4/09

✓ To Commrs.
; H

Jean Jewell

From: nonasmom@verizon.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 7:32 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Joan Santos follows:

Case Number: *AVU-E-09-01 / AVU-G-09-01*
Name: Joan Santos
Address:
City: Coeur d'Alene
State: ID
Zip: 83815
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: nonasmom@verizon.net
Name of Utility Company: Avista
Add to Mailing List:

Please describe your comment briefly:
It seems to me Avista shouldn't be raising the rates on electricity and natural gas any more. The company's top 5 are making overly large salaries already, and stock holder's making better than average profits I understand. In the current economy especially, this company should not be able to raise rates again. thanks.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 70.110.34.80

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 5/4/09

✓ To Comm. H

Jean Jewell

From: Front
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 12:38 PM
To: Nancy Hylton
Cc: Gene Fadness; Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Consumer Complaint/Inquiry Form

-----Original Message-----

From: froggybottom@msn.com [mailto:froggybottom@msn.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 6:22 AM
To: Front; Beverly Barker; Ed Howell
Subject: Consumer Complaint/Inquiry Form

A Complaint/Inquiry from Larry Easterly follows:

Name: Larry Easterly
Contact E-Mail: froggybottom@msn.com
Daytime Telephone: 208-457-8172
Home Address: 309 e. 13th
City: POST FALLS
State: ID
Zipcode: 83854-7627
If this concerns a Business, Business Name:
Business Address:
Business Phone:
Name of Utility Company: Avista (Gas & Electric) Have you contacted the utility regarding your concern?: yes

Please describe your question or complaint briefly:

I tell them monthly, please don't raise our rates on gas and electricity. They make too much money on our backs, they pay their administration people too much, nobody is worth the money they make! They always want a 15% or more increase every year, we can't afford this all the time on Social Security. They bragg about how much profit the make and at the same time want more and more. They bragg on the amount of money they pay the top executives. If I made the same amount of money they make (\$2,000,000.00 + per year) I wouldn't say a word either. I've been here over 63 years and I don't think people like us should have to pay for the developers getting rich and making us pay more for Avista's problems of putting up more poles and lines. Please don't allow them to rape us some more.

Thanks
Larry

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/cons/cons.html>
IP address is 96.249.118.247
cons

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 5/4/09

✓ To AV.

✓ To Commms.
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Jean Jewell

From: val_leane@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 4:57 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from William Wolfe follows:

Case Number: unknown AVU-E-09-01 / AVU-G-09-01
Name: William Wolfe
Address: 1221 E. Wallacde
City: Coeur d' Alene
State: Idaho
Zip: 83814
Daytime Telephone: 2086676509
Contact E-Mail: val_leane@yahoo.com
Name of Utility Company: Avista
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

I am opposed to the rate increase proposed by Avista. They need to tighten their belts just like the rest of us-especially in the area of executive compensation. I would also like to see a tiered rate schedule for electric and gas where the price increases as the usage increases. This will allow lower income rate payers to have affordable utilites. Higher use rate payers are causing Avista to purchase more electricity and gas at higher rates and they should pay these increased costs. Higher use ennties should not be subsidized by the poor. Thank you for considering my comments, William Wolfe

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 98.145.66.187

*Ben Ask
sent 5/6/09*

*v To Comment.
: H*

Jean Jewell

From: chujans@verizon.net
Sent: Monday, May 04, 2009 3:57 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Charles and Janice Somers follows:

Case Number: *AVU-E-09-01/AVU-G-09-01*
Name: Charles and Janice Somers
Address: 9015 N Torrey Lane
City: Hayden
State: ID
Zip: 83835
Daytime Telephone: 208-772-7840
Contact E-Mail: chujans@verizon.net
Name of Utility Company: Avista
Add to Mailing List:

Please describe your comment briefly:

Please do not allow Avista to raise their rates. There is no reason to as they are obviously making an income that is more than adequate for the share holders as well as the highly paid executives.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 68.238.142.234
