

IDAHO  
PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION

Case No. IPC-E-03-13  
November 13, 2003  
Boise Id

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you want your opinion noted in the record. 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](http://www.puc.state.id.us)

click on "comments & questions."

They said that resident increase would be \$2.50 a month, thats a gallon of milk for my four kids. Every month I get a disconnect notice cause I can't pay by their due date, so I have to call them and tell them it will be 3 to 4 days later.

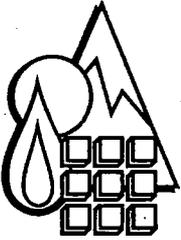
When you are a single mother I have four children it's hard to pay more then what you've already got going out even if it is only \$2.50 a month.

Leasa Smith

Print Name

Leasa Smith

Sign Name



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84 million dollar profit - CEO 800,000 yearly  
income - 42% of Idaho population is on  
fixed income - SSI - S&S income Retirement. This increase  
is the price of a gallon of milk that I can't  
afford to buy in the first place - This will make  
a hardship on ALL of the consumers of the  
power Co. - If this increase goes in I will  
lose the power - phone - & my home. I will have to go  
to wood stove for heat & cooking - & kerosene lights &  
candles.

Print Name Retta Green

Sign Name

Retta Green

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2003 NOV 12 PM 4: 14

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Robert L. Baumgartner  
1818 SE 5th Way  
Meridian, Idaho 83642

November 11, 2003

Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
472 W. Washington St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have just received the notification from Idaho Power that they are in the process of requesting a rate increase.

I respectfully request that you disapprove not only their interim 4.2 % rate increase, but their request for a 19% rate increase in residential rates.

One of the issues in this valley that continues to trouble me is the incessant growth imposed on the citizenry. Here we go again with another outgrowth of growth...the request for us to foot the bill because of the growth that has occurred or is anticipated to occur. Frankly I am sick of being told by politicians, developers and others of their ilk the valley has to grow. The quality of life here, for those of you on the commission who may remember, is not what it was 25 years ago. Are we to continue the growth folly in order to make a few people more wealthy while sacrificing the quality of life for the rest of us?

Please take a stand by denying the Idaho Power Company this huge rate increase.

Sincerely,

*Robert Baumgartner*

To: IPUC

Re: Idaho Power "rate" increase

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2003 NOV 12 PM 4: 14

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Nov. 7, 2003

I wish to object to  
the proposed increase in  
the Current Customer Charge  
from \$2.51 to \$10.<sup>00</sup>. I don't  
think even congress got  
that much of a raise  
and I know social security  
recipients didn't!

Double it to \$5.03 and don't  
be so greedy! Rate increase OK!

Thank you

Carolyn M. Mosebar



Ms. Carolyn M. Mosebar  
840 N. Crane Rd.  
Midvale, ID 83645-5514

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2003 NOV 12 PM 2:53

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

John M. Bader  
2324 Hillcrest Ln.  
Caldwell ID 83605

To Whom It May Concern:

Idaho wants a raise in power to cover its investments. They want to raise the service charge from 2.51 to 10 a month an increase the current winter & summer rate which comes to 19% increase, which we never will get back after they cover their investment. The contractors & the new home owners should pay for the investment. I worked on power plants & also worked for S.R.P. in G. for a few years they do not work to budget their self, they just spend money on stupid junk. The Power Company needs to budget their self like everyone else. There is a lot of under hand deals the Power Company do. I am not in favor of a rate in case people can just about live now.

Thank You  
John M. Bader

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2003 NOV 12 AM 9:00

Hi Gene,

IDAHO  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

It was nice to talk to you on the phone the other week. I appreciated your time and information.

As I mentioned to you, I believe the U.P.U.C. is quite capable, and investigates rate increases from utility companies very thoroughly. I do want to go on record to state that Idaho Power in its latest rate increase application is way out of line with the proposed customer service charge put at \$10.00 per month. Rates over time, up or down, should reflect costs to acquire, transmit, and provide power to customers, but rates should reflect operational costs also. This proposed service charge reflects nearly a 75% increase in that category and I believe the U.P.U.C. should not allow it. I would be for no service charge what so ever, and let the rates per kWh reflect both power and operational costs for Idaho Power. At the very least, current monthly sold-on service charges should remain between 2 and 3 dollars. Sincerely,  
Tim Hogan

P.S. Any internal rate increase should begin Jan 1, 2004  
not for 11/15/03

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2003 NOV 12 AM 8:10

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Utilities Commission  
472 W. Washington  
Boise, Idaho

Idaho Power, a subsidiary of Idacorp has just asked for 25% rate increase. There are several reasons why I believe it should be refused by the Public Utilities Commission. In fact I feel that there are several reasons there should be a reduction in the current rates charged the general public. If there is a change, it should be done on the charge per kilowatt not on percentage charged. It should also be made public how much it costs to produce, distribute, and service by the kilowatt. I do not believe that changing to a part of Idacorp fulfills the basic agreement. Idacorp having control does not fulfill the public utility agreement of constitutional monopoly.

Years ago Idaho Power was made one of our public utilities. It was given a monopoly that is illegal unless controlled by a public utility commission and Idaho Power is guaranteed a profit of a certain percent.

They not only do not own the dam sites, but the use of them and the use of the water's weight to run their turbines to propel their generators was to be taken care of by what is called mitigation. Parks, planting of fish and other recreational services were to be financed by Idaho Power to take care of this part of the agreement. Some of this agreement has not been satisfactorily done according to the fish and game and others. They've managed to get out of paying for these services and also not paying taxes by never finishing anything, by leaving an empty "stall" in their power plants. All of their signs at the dams call it a project not a power plant. Technically they use the reading of the law to their benefit.

The use of water bought from Bell Rapids irrigation should have been questioned not only by the PUC, the state water resource department, but also by the governor. The state of Idaho owns the water not the Bell Rapids farmers. The farmers only have a use right.

I believe a citizens commission with almost the power of a grand jury should investigate fully and report to the general public, because it appears to me that sweet heart deals have been made that do not meet state constitutional law.

Sincerely,



Laurence J. Smith  
543 River Road  
Bliss, IDAHO 83314  
208-837-6658

**To: Idaho public utility commission**  
**From: Phil Auth 3543A Hwy 93. Twin Falls, Id 83301**  
**Re: Idaho power rate increase**

I received my bill today, and with it IPC's information as to why they should have a general rate increase. My bill was as a residential customer with a 1219 KW usage. That makes me an "Average Joe."

I've never written you before. Now is the time. I regard your role as that of "Advocate and Protector" for what would other wise be a monopoly run wild. Yours is largely a thankless job, and I regard it also as an essential one. I've several points that I ask you to consider.

I'm still smarting from the 2001-02 energy bubble which drastically escalated rates. I regard that partly as a cost of limited deregulation fallout but also IPC's indirect windfall thru "Money Laundering" a tale yet to be told. As such it leaves a bad taste in my mouth and as yet another reason to mistrust a monopoly which I already mistrust. The net result of this was 3 or \$400 in additional payments. This multiplied by the number of customers, yields roughly a billion dollars in windfall revenue. Sorting out how much of that was justified by increased costs is surely an accountant's nightmare. Still I feel "Raped."

IPC quotes 3 different residential base rates in their billing info. 4.93 on one page 5.17 on another and 5.53 on my bill itself. Why is that? All I know is I have to pay based on the one for which I am billed. (5.53). Are there "Hidden Charges" which, like an auto loan, just make the deal look sweet on paper? Anyone carefully reading their bill and inserts would say something smells fishy here.

Seasonal rate adjustment is probably a good thing since it passes on legitimate higher costs in summer to residential customers. While this could be "Hidden" in a year round average, it makes people aware, which just might cause conservation measures to happen. Especially as applies to excessive lawn watering which not only costs pumping dollars, but also wasted water increasingly a scarce resource. Lower A/C temperatures might also ensue.

A seasonal power cost adjustment in late spring is also reasonable, though not new. But it ought to be based upon a risk factor, not a sure bet, that IPC share holders ought to bear as a "cost" associated with owning stock. Put another way PCA's should not reflect worst case scenarios, only reasonable scenarios.

Meter charges: \$2.51 to \$10. This seems another way of guaranteeing money. While it may be true this would offset an additional percentage base rate increase, it does not reflect the real cost of keeping a customer hooked up. 2.51 may be too low, however. Beyond meter reading and billing monthly, hook up costs are negligible. Based on accepted formulas these costs reflect \$2-3 per month to IPC. An increase is only a way of offsetting other costs, or making more money.

If I were you, I should deny this and challenge IPC to creative savings incentives, to be passed on to customers.

Examples:

- Opting for E-billing would save you \$1/month,
- Opting for E-payment would save you an additional \$1/month,
- Stable customers would be eligible for quarterly billing and meter reading saving \$2/month, decreased usage (conservation) compared to last year would give you a "free pass" on your monthly billing charge (2.51 currently).

These are just a few suggestions which IPC could incorporate into an optional customer savings package. Without your "Help" they simply will opt for the easiest path. While part of your role is advocate, another part is judge. Good stewardship towards higher social goals ought also to play a role in your mission.

The biggest issue is GRI (General Rate Increase). At first blush I wonder why they have forgone requesting one for so long. How have they made it (handsomely) for 10 years without one? Every other business adjusts annually to market/infrastructural forces annually. I might be tempted to say they've sucked it up for the benefit of consumers for 10 years, but that would be counter intuitive. Likewise, I don't buy the argument that increasing 100,000 customers (in 10 years) is adequate reason, since each of those 100,000 increased profit potential which benefits from economies of scale. Likewise national trends in electricity production do not suggest this kind of increase.

My gut tells me IPC just "Decided" it's time to bite the bullet and go fishing for whatever they can get. I'm also guessing that markets being what they are, they want to and indeed have, exported power from the local customer base to

other customer bases whose market forces justify higher rates. At what cost? Local IPC customers foot part of the bill for IPC's expansion into now local markets. "Robbing Peter to pay Paul." I cannot blame them. I would try to do that if I were in their shoes.

Still it is your job, as I see it, that they pass on costs to growth markets. The real cost of that growth rather than asking old guard local customers to under-right a portion of those growth costs.

So I'm thinking a substantial portion of GRI is to generate guaranteed expansion capital for the next few years. This "Insurance" makes for happy investors and shareholders. Both of whom ought to be assuming a higher degree of risk in return for their dividends.

I believe you understand and agree with my arguments. Where you draw the line is another question, not mine to answer.

Finally I want to address conservation. As you know the cheapest kilowatt you'll ever produce, is the one you save (because you don't need to produce it). Reality (and past history) suggests consumers need incentives to conserve. I've been an IPC customer for 29 years. Early on they provided "Incentives to Waste." The more power you used, the cheaper the rates. It made sense in 1975. In the early 80's they were wrapping hot water tanks. Recently they've been subsidizing efficient light bulbs. You have now the opportunity to build into a GRI incentives for conservation that if well crafted will become a "Win/Win"!

What will that look like? I don't know, but it needs to look like something. Excessive subsidies for solar by the feds back in the late 70's proved "too much, too soon" (and too fast): it didn't work.

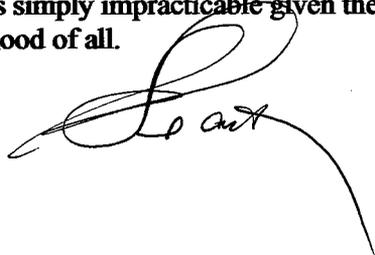
While the economics of savings and subsidies and market forces, are apparently not your forte, it seems to me you could draft and insist upon some broad strokes which would pilot and point a direction. Some suggestions:

- Mandated monthly advertising for conservation and techniques in IPC's billing, requirements that IPC "carry" in their billings ads from "qualified" conservation based companies/organizations,
- Establishing low interest protocol thru IPC for conservation oriented "big ticket" consumer expenditures,
- Subsidized hot water (household) regenerative solar systems. (the single biggest user of electricity),
- Co-oping with local gas supplies to support switching to gas fired hot water tanks, subsidizing point source hot water generators
- Subsidizing set back thermostats on electric heating systems
- Subsidizing monthly IPC carried conservation news letters
- Mandating IPC inclusion of conservation websites in monthly mailings
- Subsidizing humidifiers in electric homes
- Buy outs of refrigerated air conditioners, as rebates towards swamp coolers
- Partial subsidies towards window upgrades or cellular blind upgrades
- Direct bonus payments to renters who get land lords to buy into any of the above. A kind of "reward", based on the dollars spent by land lord.

These are just a few ideas off the top of my head. Doubtless you could come up with more. The point is you have an opportunity that hasn't existed in a decade to negotiate and attach to any IPC's pending GRI, a set of conditions which could or would become win/win. This is part of the negotiation and truly an exemplar reason why you exist in the first place. Not simply as arbiter but truly as advocate for the common good.

It needs stating that neither IPC, nor its share holders are in a position to do this in and of themselves, as much as they might "like" to. It's simply impracticable given the "Nature of the Beast." As intermediary, you have the power to make it happen, to the good of all.

May God bless you!



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2003 NOV 12 AM 8:10

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

11/4/03

Idaho Power & Idaho Public Utilities:

With regard to your rate increase,  
I have no objection to a 17.7 percent (14% too high  
for residential) increase in your rates - everything  
goes up I know + this seems  
reasonable. However, a service  
charge from \$2.51 to \$10.00 month  
is outrageous! A 40% increase  
is unaffordable - especially  
for low income + seniors who  
are on fixed incomes.  
Don't let this happen. 17.7% is  
enough at this time.

Thanks for listening.

S. Diane Tipton  
10082 Prairie Rd  
Boise, ID 83714

208-939-0597

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2003 NOV 10 AM 8:56

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

John Hartman  
507 N. Commercial  
Emmett, Idaho 83617  
208-365-4125

Open Letter to IPUC  
Thursday, November 06, 2003

Dear Sirs.

On the subject of rate increases for our utilities,  
for the reason of paying for new growth.

I am very much opposed.

I neither wanted or will I benifit from this new  
growth.

Idaho is now what California was 20 years ago,  
and we are headed in the same direction.

Is this what we really want?

Thank you,  
John Hartman



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2003 NOV 10 AM 9:00

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 83720-0074  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074

Subject: Idaho Power Company and Ida Corp. GREAT CRY FOR MORE MONEY.

We suggest that Ida Corp recover the BIG MONEY they drained off Idaho Power Company to Big Bonuses to help solve Idaho Power's money problems. Ida Corp has just reported a 27% increase in their quarter profits.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a Built in GROWTH of customers. Idaho Power states a growth of 100,000 plus of new customers in place to draw income from and they are still growing.

NO OTHER BUSINESS IN IDAHO HAS HAD SUCH CONTROL. We mentioned this matter in a letter to you April 17, 2002.

The cash flow of Idaho residents in all walks, senior citizens, farmers, and other industry has gone DOWN. No interest money from banks on saving accounts to spend.

CROP PRICES ARE AS LOW AS EVER, BEET PAYMENTS ARE LOWERING, BEAN PRICES SHOW NO INCREASE FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BANKRUPTCY ON THE INCREASE AND GUESS WHAT--- IDAHO POWER COMPANY WITH GAINS IN CUSTOMERS IS WANTING A 19%, 21%, and 25% INCREASE TO COVER THEIR MIS-JUDGEMENTS OF DOING BUSINESS. POOR MANAGEMENT.

SUGGESTION: HAVE IDA CORP TRANSFER MONEY BACK TO IDAHO POWER COMPANY TO COVER THEIR CASH FLOW OR JUST PUT IT ON THEIR CREDIT CARDS.

I have an example....on cashflow of \$100,000 at major banks, one year earning is \$2301.01 and less than above for other saving accounts.

The people of Idaho cannot be responsible to pay Idaho Power such big increases and still be able to pay for their necessary needs as FOOD, HOUSING, HEAT, MEDICINE, CLOTHING on the low incomes that many seniors and young families have. Some cannot afford health insurance. Also consider the HIGH FUEL PRICES IN THIS STATE.

MY CORRESPONDENCE FROM YOU IN THE PAST, YOU STILL GIVE THE IDAHO POWER COMPANY THEIR REQUESTS ONE WAY OR ANOTHER...WHEN DO YOU STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR GREAT STATE?

IT IS TIME TO LISTEN TO AND CONSIDER THE PEOPLE OF IDAHO.

We thank you for consideration.

Audrey Ransall  
Merwin Randall  
Leo J. Jarich Buhl  
W.G. Barnett Buhl Idaho. 83310  
Gary L. Maffin Buhl  
Abraham MEMO

Phaine Roberts  
Clinton K. Uptain  
D. J. ...  
J. H. Montes

all are Buhl. Idaho @ Morning Coffee group.