

Jean Jewell

To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: I.P. proposed rate hike

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

From: Karen Turner [mailto:stingding@pmt.org]
Sent: Thursday, January 15, 2004 10:07 PM
To: Tonya Clark
Subject: I.P. proposed rate hike

I read today that Idaho Power wants to raise their rates by 17.7%, whining that they haven't had a rate hike in ten years. This is supposedly to help defray the costs of having built new power plants (where?) and whatnot. How can they get away with BS'ing citizens like that? What are they calling what they did in 1999 (or 2000?) when they raised everyone's rates according to how much power they used? I live in a little house out in the country and was paying \$35-\$40 per month (I have oil heat) until IP got that increase approved. Now I have to pay \$75 to \$100 per month. I suppose they have some way of twisting things around so they don't have to call what they did raising rates, but it works out the same for the consumer anyway, doesn't it. What's happened to your own electric bill? Back then, IP said this "temporary" increase was to cover costs for providing for future power needs of the state. Well, here it is, the future, and now they say they haven't had a hike since 1993, so they need a big one now. Do they they consumers are idiots? Well, maybe not idiots-- just extremely forgetful. Evidently... If they haven't had a rate hike, then what has happened to all this money consumers have been paying out for the last four years? Does anyone ever follow up on their spending? I'd really like to see an accounting of all these funds that IP is now not calling a rate hike. I'm so sick of paying to line some CEO's (and associated cohorts) pockets. I don't mind paying a fair price for a fair service, but IP's gluttonous ways need to be stopped. You can squeeze only so much blood out of a turnip, and this turnip needs to keep just a little to pay the other fat cats as well. This is so disgusting. This is such a great example of pure greed, I could just puke. Please, please, please, don't grant this request from IP. Everyone else has to be held responsible and learn to manage their money in the best way to SERVE THE PUBLIC. Maybe it's time Idaho Power towed the line as well. Maybe the fat cat's bonuses should be trimmed back, and they should have to live like everyone else. I know I'm not the only one who feels this way. Thanks for your time. Karen Turner (stingding@pmt.org)

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2004 1:44 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Friday, January 16, 2004
1:44:10 AM

Case:

Name: Robert Furtkamp
Street Address: 775 Yellowstone #153
City: Pocatello
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83201

Home Telephone: 208 232 5784

E-Mail: robert@furtkamp.com

Company: Idaho Power

mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: In regards to Idaho Power's base rate increase proposal, I'd like to see the utility be held more accountable on issues of customer service and providing service to the poor and less fortunate that is more in line with what other national utilities provide. For instance, Idaho Power's "Payment Plan" for those who for one reason or another fall behind on their bill is far inferior to any other state or company's I have ever encountered living all over the United States. I'd like to see concrete, realistic guidelines for what exactly a "reasonable" payment plan offered to customers is, instead of leaving it strictly up to the utility. This is, after all, a monopoly that customers are dealing with.

It's one thing to raise rates if that increase is truly necessary, but it should also come with benefits to the consumer, to the community, and to those whose only real choice for power is through the monopoly enjoyed by Idaho Power.

I also must question whether this permanent rate increase is necessary given the last year's rate reduction. Just a few months ago, my radio was full of advertisements telling Idaho consumers how much their electricity bills were going to fall. If the company is as strapped for cash as claimed, then I must wonder (a) why they felt compelled to spend money to advertise a rate cut that they must have been aware would be recinded in spades in a short period of time, and (b) why there is such a disparity between the rates being billed and the adjusted rates for the last several years.

I understand that the company has a right to earn a reasonable profit, but at the same time, I would like to see a greater elaboration of what is expected of the company as well as what's expected of the customers.

It's time to tie this rate increase, whatever it will be, to specific improvements in service and strict accountability, and I believe it is in the best interest of the state, its citizens, and Idaho Power itself to make concrete improvements in a wide variety of areas.

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