√ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 √ To Comms ; H

HAT BUTTE MUTUAL CANAL CO.

RECEIVED ☒
FILED ☐

2004 APR 27 AM 8:42

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 26, 2004

To Idaho Power and the Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing on behalf of the Hat Butte Mutual Canal Company. We are strongly opposed to the proposed irrigation rate hike. Although the need for raising rates may indeed be necessary, the division of the increase is inequitable. The amount of power used by irrigators has remained virtually unchanged over the past ten years. During the same period, the amount of power used by homes and businesses has increased substantially. Your proposed rate changes do not even remotely mirror this breakdown of the increase in usage, with the greatest increase going to irrigation. If new facilities are required to keep up with this growth, then those who are creating the increased demand need to pay for the facilities.

Sincerely,

Gerrit Siebelink
President, Hat Butte Mutual Canal Company

13735 MISSOURI AVE • NAMPA, IDAHO • 83686
PHONE: 208-467-9712 • FAX: 208-466-6222

RECEIVED ☒
FILED ☐

2004 APR 26 PM 3:30

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 14, 2004

State of Idaho
Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Subject: Proposed Idaho Power Rate Increases

Dear Sirs:

We, the undersigned ratepayers, oppose the proposed rate increase, which we understand would be from 17 to 25%. As we watch power rates go up we see the level of service going down. We understand that your staff has recommended a rate increase of about 3%.

In our area any increase puts an additional financial burden on the elderly on fixed incomes, low income working families, small business owners, and farmers and ranchers who are already struggling.

We do not understand the intricacies of rate setting but we strongly believe that rate payers should not be burdened with costs that should rightfully be assigned to stockholders or developers. We urge you to listen to your staff, honor your responsibilities to us, the ratepayers, and deny the proposed increase.

Respectfully requested,

W S Atteberry	3494 Rush CR. RD.	CAMBRIDGE
Shirley Atteberry	"	"
Janice Allison	2894 SALUBRIA RD	CAMBRIDGE
Frank & Elizabeth Williamson	PO Box 221	Cambridge Id.
Paul & Mary Radzych	PO B72	Midvale ID 83645
Clyde & Mildred Snell	PO B116	Cambridge, Id 83610
Roger & Barbara Cook	175 School	Midvale ID
Donna Hatenbeck	2464 Busch	Midvale
Joel Noah	2490 West Rush Creek RD	Cambridge
James A Rogers	2026 Mussman Rd	Council ID 83645
Joe A Noah	2490 W Pine	Cambridge
Wilfred & Maxine Fox	2272 Valley Rd	Midvale, Id 83645
John & Jack Wright	485 E. Bridge St.	Midvale, Id. 83645
Robert Reeves	2910 Cove Rd	Cambridge Id 83610
Eva Nockels	590 E. Bridge St.	Midvale, Id. 83645
Angelina Turley	2792 Salubria Rd	Cambridge 83610
Patricia Holt	3447 Rush Creek Rd.	Cambridge, ID 83610
Janet M Fox	3045 Mill Rd	Cambridge, Id 83610

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FILED
2004 APR 26 PM 3:30
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 14, 2004

State of Idaho
Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, Idaho 83702

Subject: Proposed Idaho Power Rate Increases

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We do not understand the intricacies of rate setting but we strongly believe that rate payers should not be burdened with costs that should rightfully be assigned to stockholders or developers. We urge you to listen to your staff, honor your responsibilities to us, the ratepayers, and deny the proposed increase.

Respectfully requested,

Mike Ford 3075 Mill Rd Cambridge
Rose Pattee

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs

Dennis Roth
3964 Roth Rd
American Falls, Id 83211

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, Id 83720

April 22, 2004

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter in protest of the Idaho Power increase proposals. We as farmers, seem to be powerless when it comes to any kind of decisions by the U.P. railroad, or Idaho Power. When you live in S.E. Idaho or maybe in all South Idaho we pay some of the highest fuel prices, pay some of the highest rail prices for our grain, & now we are looking at higher power costs that are not, in my opion, spread evenly.

I've been an irrigator with my father since 1973, and we have some of the highest H.P. pumps in Power County. We have only 3 that have to irrigate 1,400 acres. So we are between a rock & hard spot when it comes to irrigating or not.

We are fortunate to have a P.U.C., or else monopolies could run all over us. Irrigators have not been able to expand for many years so if there is more demand it certainly isn't from irrigators.

Sincerely,

Dennis Roth

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04

✓ To Comms : H

Dear PUC

Friends of ours who are farming on Bell Rapids cannot afford increased rates on electric power! They would have to shut down! No more sugar beets! Factory can shut down and lay off their employees!

Sincerely

F C Anderson

Rate hike will sink farmers' bottom line

By Ralph C. Burton

Generally speaking, the Idaho Power rate increase proposal has been considered mainly from the perspective of how it would affect homeowners, especially in the state's cities. But urban and rural Idaho still rely on each other, and what happens to one, affects the other.

The proposed rate hike will have an affect on businesses and industry located in major cities. A lot of that industry is food processing, whose raw material is now sourced from Idaho farms. Cities are where people go to buy cars, appliances, obtain medical care and other services that are not available in rural areas.

If Idaho Power is allowed to raise rates on irrigators by 25 percent as it wishes, that will pretty much spell the end of a large part of Idaho's economy. Our sugarbeet grower/owners have approximately 500,000 acres statewide relying on Idaho Power electricity for water to grow various crops, including sugarbeets.

Hard hit will be southern Idaho, where affordable electricity is essential to sustain sugarbeet production. For example, the Bell Rapids Irrigation Co., a farmer-owned business, uses 62 million kilowatts to pump water vertically 550 feet out of the Snake River near Buhl. About 18,500 acres of farmland rely on the water, and those acres produce nearly $12 million in crops. A 25 percent rate hike would put Bell Rapids out of business and wipe out the sugarbeet production tied to it.

Since 2000, electricity has almost doubled in cost. Fertilizer, gasoline and diesel have also escalated. Prices for sugar remain at low levels, and prices for other commodities have also been at or near historical lows in recent years.

Farmers do not have the mechanism in place to pass along their increased production costs to the consumer, as Idaho Power does. If a farmer's costs become more than what he receives for his products, the only choice is to go out of business or drastically scale back his farming operations.

This surely will happen to many farmers should the proposed power rate increase become a reality. This will have a serious economic impact on Amalgamated Sugar Company's processing plants in Nampa, Twin Falls, Paul and Nyssa, Ore., and adversely affect its 1,200 grower/owners and 2,000 employees.

Idaho Power says it must raise rates to pay for power plants needed to keep up with growth. The real injustice of the rate hikes is that irrigators are not the cause for the increasing needs for electricity.

Raising energy rates 25 percent on irrigators will damage the economy and seriously impact livelihoods throughout the state. On behalf of Idaho's agricultural community, I urge you to contact the Idaho Public Utilities Commission and ask them to reject the 25 percent rate hike.

■ Ralph C. Burton is president and chief executive officer of Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC.

✓Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓To Commrs ; H

April 20,2004

Dear Commissioners & Staff,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Idaho Power rate increase case #IPC-E-03-13. My name is David Bergh and I am writing on behalf of myself and the Sugarbeet Growers of Elmore and Owyhee counties. I am a partner with my father on a 2300 acre farming operation in Elmore county and I also serve on the board of directors of 'The Elwyhee Sugarbeet Growers Association' which represents beet growers from Murphy to Glenns Ferry.

Myself and the majority of sugarbeet growers in our Association operate high lift irrigated farms. Our district averages approximately 17,000 sugarbeet acres annually with a direct economic impact to these two rural counties of nearly $17 million from sugarbeets alone. With the average dollar rolling over 5 to 6 times in these communities the overall economic impact is approaching $100 million.

In southern Idaho the majority of rural economies are structured around production agriculture, which in turn is structured around current input costs. To upset this balance is to put all of this in jeopardy These small towns have virtually no other industries to fall back on. Bear in mind that the Elwyhee District represents only about 7% of the total sugarbeet acres raised in southern Idaho. There are many other areas that will also be adversely affected all across the state. I give you these facts to help illustrate the magnitude of the potential impact this rate increase may have on these rural communities

As ag producers we are a captive market for Idaho Power. We are also at the mercy of the commodity markets when it comes to selling our product and therefore we have no means by which to pass on this cost increase. Profit margins have been, and continue to be, virtually non existent in production agriculture right now and to expect producers to absorb this increase is unrealistic and inappropriate. On these high lift operations our power costs are already the largest single input cost in raising a crop. The increase in our pumping cost has far outpaced increases in other input costs, in many cases by a factor of 2 or 3 times the rate of other costs.

As sugarbeet producers we are somewhat unique in the fact that we have all invested substantial amounts of money to purchase our sugar company and form a grower owned co-op, The Snake River Sugar Company, to help us survive in a very competitive global industry. In the case of the Elwyhee Beet Growers Association, growers purchased a combined total of roughly 17,000 shares @ $400 per share for a total investment of nearly $6.8 million in our district alone. These shares not only give us the *right* to deliver beets to our co-op, they also *obligate* us to deliver our shares of production every year or face a severe financial penalty or share forfeiture for failure to deliver. As shareholders we can not pick and choose whether we want to raise beets or not each season. We must raise our beet shares each and every year. This is pertinent to this issue because we are rapidly approaching the point at which we can no longer cash flow a sugarbeet crop on

high lift operations. In some cases we are beyond this point already. Growers are being forced to forfeit shares and liquidate their farming operations because they can no longer continue to raise sugarbeets, or for that matter any other crop, at a loss. Most other rotational crops have already become unprofitable, due to low commodity prices and excessive power costs. This power increase puts a large number of sugarbeet acres in my district, as well as other areas, in jeopardy. This has the potential to put our co-op at a serious economic disadvantage and could ultimately lead to the failure of the sugarbeet industry in southern Idaho.

I believe Idaho Power has failed to adequately present their case requesting a 47% increase to achieve COS rates for irrigators. In testimony presented on behalf of the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association Mr. Yankley presented a number of issues regarding non- transparency and flawed methodologies in Idaho Power's case. I don't see where these issues have been addressed adequately enough by IPUC staff to justify this rate increase or any rate increase for that matter. I am not going to pretend that I am an expert in energy and or PUC matters but I am an experienced business man and I have read testimony from all sides in this case and I am left feeling very uneasy about a number of issues regarding this case. The way in which Idaho Power allocates overhead cost to different rate schedules appears to be somewhat flawed and very vague in some areas. Common sense would indicate that the increase in load and demand Idaho Power is experiencing would be due to 100,000 new customers and the required equipment and manpower to satisfy that load and demand. As an irrigator class we have paid demand charges for many, many years to help cover the increased load and demand resulting from our usage. Our load and demand has been steady or even declining in the past several years. To penalize irrigators for this cost is inappropriate. This cost increase needs to be passed on to the rate payers that are causing the increase, mainly new residential hookups.

In Southwest Idaho, irrigators are also idling acreage. This season approximately 25,000 acres will be idled leaving an extra 75,000 acre feet of water in the Snake River. This is a win/win situation for Idaho Power in the fact that we are decreasing load and demand for Idaho Power and at the same time leaving water in the snake river for Idaho Power to generate additional hydroelectric energy at no additional cost to the company and yet as irrigators we receive no credit or even an acknowledgment from Idaho Power that this is occurring.

I would also like to add that a guaranteed 11% return on equity is inappropriate for a public utility in today's economy. Take a poll of any number of private business and see what kind of returns they are experiencing and I think you will find very few that are achieving this kind of return on equity. In a capitalistic economy reward should be tied to risk. Idaho power has virtually no financial risk and yet they are seeking returns greater than many other business sectors, most of which have great risk in the marketplace. It is unfathomable to me how the IPUC can allow a public utility to profit at these levels on the backs of struggling ratepayers. Idaho Power is a monopolistic entity and as such it cannot be allowed to profit at these levels unless it is also exposed to downside risk. They can't have it both ways.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is the timing of this or any other rate increase. Ag producers have to make plans to plant a crop well in advance of May the 15th. Budgets have been set and approved and crops are planted and many large input costs are incurred well in advance of this date. We are committed to a full irrigation season without knowing what we will pay for energy costs. For Idaho Power or the IPUC to make major rate changes after the fact is unfair and inappropriate to producers and their lenders. We need time to plan ahead and to make adjustments before a crop is planted and a grower is committed for an entire irrigation season. Therefore I would request that any rate increase levied against irrigators not go into effect until the next irrigation season. This is the only way that we as irrigators can adequately plan ahead and make adjustments in our operations.

This rate increase request is a matter of financial life and death for my industry and as such I would ask that as a commission you seriously consider not granting any base rate increase nor any increase in demand charges to the irrigator class at this time. As Idaho Power customers your commission is the only representation we have as ratepayers. We are relying on you to insure that we are treated fairly and equitably by the public utilities. Our future as Ag producers is in your hands.

I would invite each of you on the commission to tour some high lift areas in these counties and personally witness the number of acres already idled due to high power costs. I stand ready to assist if you are willing to see for yourselves what is happening in these rural ag communities. You could be instrumental in stimulating growth within rural Idaho if you are willing to do the right thing and treat irrigators appropriately by not granting any increase in rates to Idaho Power in this case.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David E. Bergh
Bergh Farms LLC & Elwyhee Beet Growers Association
6025 Highway 30 E
Mountain Home, ID 83647
208/573-3542

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04

✓ To Commrs

RECEIVED ☒
FILED ☐

2004 APR 26 AM 9:01

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Emmett, Idaho
April 24, 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

I am especially concerned with the increase Idaho Power is requesting on the monthly meter charge. The charge now is $2.51, and they want $10.00. We have 3 meters plus one for our irrigation pump which we share with a neighbor. That is a big increase alone without the increase they want on usage. Our increase in Social Security isn't going to cover Idaho Power's increase let alone everyone else with their hands out.

Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Arlene M. Lamb
750 Sharp Lane
Emmett, Id 83617

✓ Gen Ask sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs & IP

RECEIVED [X]
FILED [ ]
2004 APR 28 AM
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 23, 04
Caldwell, Ida

Idaho Public Utilities Comm.
Boise, Idaho

Concerning IPC rate increase:
I do not understand why they need such a huge increase. I am a small farmer trying to hang on, this will make it very tough. Why is the old established customer the target? I'm sure the demand is there, but I'm also sure all the new demands will have to pay plenty. I do believe this is serious mismanagement on their part. Why can't the stockholders bear their share? Plus wanting us to pick up the tab on the elite Club membership and other perks. We can't afford all the extras for ourselves. I've always thought of Ida Power Co as being a good, reliable Co. but it seems to me they are no better than all the other greedy conglomerates we have in our Corrupt Country. They don't care about the little guy that at one time was their very backbone.
Please deny this huge increase. It just is not right.

Sincerely
Helen Carson
18460 Plum Rd.
Caldwell, Ida. 83607

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs

April 23, 2004

IPUC
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID. 83720-0074

Dear IPUC Members:

The purpose of my letter is to object to raising Idaho Powers electricity rates. I believe they have more than enough monies coming into their Company already. Last year their were several complaints to the Salmon area office about Davey Tree Expert Co. line-clearing crew workers sitting in their trucks instead of properly performing their utility work duties.

Randy Ellsworth, local foreman for Idaho Power , determined that the complaints merited an investigation. Higher-ups from Pocatello - Boise area investigated the complaints and said nothing was wrong. I can tell you the method of pay can not be based on work accomplished or Davey Tree and Asplundh would lose money.

I have a tree trimming business and have personally witnessed these Companies crews goofing off on several occasions. A few years ago while trimming 3 trees for Mel Reingold on Broadway St. I saw an Asplundh truck parked for 4 hours with the crew (one sleeping and the other on reading) sitting in the truck. Two years ago while working for Don Belamy in 4th of July Cr. a Davey Tree crew sat for 3 hours eating and watching me work. The foreman questioned me for some time as to how he could become an independent tree trimmer.

On another occasion I observed that a crew spent 4 days on about 8 trees. I could have done the work in one – two days maximum time.

My point is, if Idaho Power Company can afford to pay these Companies to sit around and not work, they are already receiving a higher rate than they need to run a profitable business. I feel you should require them to write a fair contract and enforce it with ethical practice. There is no way the public would approve a rate hike if they knew how much waste is taking place by Idaho Power paying these crews by the day then not caring that the crews put in an honest days work.

I recommend you check my concerns out before you approve another rate increase. If you wish, I would be happy to show you on-the-ground, where these unethical practices took place.

A concerned Idaho taxpayer,

Paul E. Hightree

Paul E. Hightree

√ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 √ To Commrs ; H

RECEIVED ☒
FILED ☐

Collegiate Farm Bureau

University of Idaho

MSC 948
1080 West Sixth St.
Moscow, ID 83843

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

Dear Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

The Collegiate Farm Bureau club, in cooperation with the Idaho Farm Bureau Organization, is a newly formed organization here at the University of Idaho. The club consists mainly of students in the College of Agriculture with a real passion and love for the agriculture industry.

Our group feels that agriculture is unfairly taking on the financial burden for development in our state. According to current staff reports, a 15% increase for irrigation users seems extremely unfair, especially since residential power is expected to increase only 2.5%.

Current growth in Idaho has pushed many challenges on agriculture over the past few years. With current commodity prices where they are, farmers can't withstand another added cost like this. More importantly, it's not fair for agriculture to have to fund the cost of residential development. Idaho Power's infrastructure to accommodate agriculture irrigation systems has been in place for years. The use of Idaho Power's resources to provide irrigation power has been decreasing as the tremendous residential and business growth in Idaho has occurred. We believe impact fees should be put in place on residential development and growing business' (like Micron) so they are paying for their own growth.

If this rate proposal goes through, Idaho will lose much more than a few farm businesses. It will mean a cut in tax revenue for the state, a decline in the numbers of jobs that surround and support agriculture, a very negative impact on small rural communities, and most important -- the demise of Idaho's rich farming heritage and our future.

In order to keep Idaho's economy and rural heritage growing, please don't make agriculture take on the burden of new growth and development. We're fighting enough problems right now!

Please allow "Growth to Pay for Growth", and refuse this rate increase proposed by Idaho Power.

It's a unanimous vote for our organization to allow, "Growth pay for Growth!"

Sincerely,

Collegiate Farm Bureau – University of Idaho

Willis Spiker

Drew Brammer

Ryan Shaw

Joe Beavers

Conrad Cryer

Elena de la Concepcion

Clint Stevenson

Eric A. Egbert

Katie Beavers

Mary Barstow

Jim Shoemaker

Ryan Svaty

Tyrel R. Tyer

President, University of Idaho
Collegiate Farm Bureau Chapter

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs & H

April 22, 2004

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Lori Albertson of Rupert, Idaho. This letter is regarding my concern to the recent "Idaho Power Rate Raise Request".

I have lived in Idaho most all of my life and have very much appreciated its "preservation" and "country living". I can pretty much survive on little spending at the grocery store "Ridley's" — NOT WALMART! for my needs - everything else comes directly out of the ground from local farms or my own garden.

I am married and have children who I try to teach them "conservative" ways and learn them that "power" is NOT EVERYthing" = BUT DIRT AND RAIN IS!

My husband and I have

discussions on many issues these days in regards to the "mobility world" And the internet can take it further. However, our particular ways of life reflect a more SIMPLE LIFE. And, we prefer to keep it that way.

So, in conclusion, I would like to strongly disagree with any rate increase because I believe it would drive out the farmers who have provided my family with food - the very resource which keeps us alive just so the "growth" companies can continue to "eat up" any energy conflicting to our "natural resources...

I could go on...

Please NO RATE INCREASE

Sincerely
Lori Albertson

✓ Gen. Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs : H

RECEIVED ☒
FILED ☐

2004 APR 23 AM 8:48

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 22, 2004

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

RE: Case Number, IPC-E-03-13, Power rate increase

Dear Sirs:

Idaho Power says it needs a power rate increase to keep up with the rising demand and costs.

I have lived in Canyon County for 40 years. My dad was a farmer here and I've been farming for 22 years. I currently farm 1600 acres near the Snake River south of Nampa and 165 acres West of Nampa. I employ 9 full-time employees and up to 350 seasonal workers. If Idaho Power gets the 25 percent rate increase for irrigators, it would be a drastic increase for me. With the price of fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, insurance premiums, and other expenses rising and commodity prices down, it will be a struggle to keep going. I will have to cut bonuses and raises for my employees, won't be able to buy new vehicles or equipment, spend less in local businesses. This could lead to a great economic impact within the state with the trickle down effect it could have on our area.

I feel that it is unfair for Idaho Power to raise rates to irrigators to help pay for needed power plants to keep up with the growth. The irrigators are not responsible for all this growth. I urge you to vote against this drastic power increase for irrigators that may damage the economy and impact the livelihoods throughout our area and state.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Rasgorshek

Paul A. Rasgorshek
12770 W. Roosevelt Ave.
Nampa, ID 83686

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs

April 21, 2004

RECEIVED [X]
FILED [ ]

2004 APR 22 AM 8:27

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PUC Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

RE: Idaho Power rate increase

Dear Commission Members:

For Idaho Power to ask to raise the PCA as well as monthly service charge to $10.00 is obvious they have no idea what it means to live on a "Fixed Income" - nor do they care.

We have tried <u>everything</u> to lower power usage: use the new bulbs (which don't fit) - use cold water for laundry (so now whites are gray) - lower the thermostat (which sent my husband to the doctor and caused more medication - <u>more</u> money).

Now they want us to pay more. It is obvious what it means to be elderly - or struggle to make ends meet, they don't experience.

Because of bad investments on Wall Street - they should <u>not</u> make customers make up for - it's not <u>our</u> fault!

Please don't allow them to do this! Just say "No"! Thank you.

Respectfully,
Lucy Cassese

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Comms : H

RECEIVED [X]
FILED [ ]

2004 APR 22 AM 8:27

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. IPC-E-03-13

To: The Commissioners
Idaho Public Utilities
Paul Kjellander
Dennis Hansen
Marsha H. Smith

April 16, 2004

After attending the meeting in Jerome, Idaho hearing with many producers who have penciled out costs big and small for Idaho power to want any increase any increases put on the people this year 2004, is not justified. Copy of Ida Corp record of salaries ----How legal is this? Too much in salaries to Ida Corp has been drained out of Idaho Power and should not be happening and they want increases.???

Senior citizens cannot meet increase of any kind, it is not right for them. Insurances are up, taxes for many school districts are up with bond levys, like the Buhl area, Magic Valley Hospital for the newly formed ambulance district, $20 per $100,000 on homes and no formula available from tax office. Now fuel costs are at an all time high. The agricultural land is not selling as well as homes. Check out the Twin Falls area.

There must be a cap stop put on utulities. Please help the people of Idaho as a whole. Make Idaho Power and Ida Corp change their guide lines and stop the over charge of $10 to read meters, not right for over load on food chain on farming operations and retailers small and large. It would put many out of business.

Something must be done now for the people of Idaho. Your commission must do the right thing and stop any increase requested by utilities at this time. We are life long residents of Idaho. We were bornhere, educated here and made our living with our businesses in Idaho.

Thanks.
Mervin E. Randall
Audrey N. Randall

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs

RECEIVED
FILED

2004 APR 28 AM 8:24

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tammy Jones
1335 1st Ave. S.
Payette, Idaho 83661
208-642-1439

kntjones@mindspring.com

April 1, 2004

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have heard you are planning on once again raising the electricity rates. Many people in our area including myself can barely make the monthly rate now. If the rates go much higher, electricity will pass from being a necessity into being a luxury few can afford. If Idaho Power is whining now that their profit margin is not high enough, what will they do when their customer base gets cut in half or worse? They will soon price themselves out of business. It will become a status symbol to be able to say "I have electricity" like people now say "I have a BMW". Please say no to the price hike. It's time to think about lowering prices with this economy not raising prices to add some extra padding to someone else's Balance Sheet. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tammy Jones

Tammy Jones
Idaho Power Customer

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs

RECEIVED
FILED
2004 APR 28 AM 8:21
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Keith Jones

1335 1st. Ave. S.
Payette, Idaho 83661
208-642-1439

kntjones@mindspring.com

April 1, 2004

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have heard you are planning on once again raising the electricity rates. Many people in our area including myself can barely make the monthly rate now. If the rates go much higher, electricity will pass from being a necessity into being a luxury few can afford. If Idaho Power is whining now that their profit margin is not high enough, what will they do when their customer base gets cut in half or worse? They will soon price themselves out of business. It will become a status symbol to be able to say "I have electricity" like people now say "I have a BMW". Please say no to the price hike. It's time to think about lowering prices with this economy not raising prices to add some extra padding to someone else's Balance Sheet. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Keith Jones

Keith Jones
Idaho Power Customer

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/28/04 ✓ to Commes. : 11

SCHOOL DISTRICT #373
Payette County

P.O. Box A ◆ Fruitland, Idaho 83619 ◆ Phone: (208) 452-3595 ◆ Fax: (208) 452-6430

April 26, 2004

Idaho PUC
Statehouse Mail
Boise, ID 83720

Dear Commissioners:

We would like to comment on the proposed Idaho Power rate increase request, and the impact that it will make on our school district.

We feel with the current fuel price increase, along with very little additional state support for education, it will be a true hardship for our district to pay more for power. It would make a major impact on the quality of our instructional capabilities with a possible reduction in staff and teaching materials.

Please consider those entities which are state supported when you make a decision on Idaho Power's rate increase request.

Sincerely,

Alan G. Felgenhauer

Alan G. Felgenhauer
Superintendent

✓ Gen. Ack sent 4/27/04 ✓ To Commrs ✓ It

Jean Jewell

From: Front
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 11:04 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Complaint acknowledgement

-----Original Message-----
From: Ed Howell
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2004 12:02 PM
To: Front; Beverly Barker; Ed Howell; Tonya Clark
Subject: Complaint acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Monday, April 26, 2004
11:01:34 AM

Name: Reid G. Stewart
Street_Address: 3100 West 1000 S.
City: Aberdeen
State: ID
ZIP: 83210
Home_Telephone: 208-397-4572
Work_Telephone:
E-Mail: reidgstewart@cs.com
Home_Business: Business
Business_Name: Consolidated Farms Inc.
Business_Street_Address: same
Business_Phone: same
Complaint_Company: Idaho Power
Local_Provider:
Complaint_description: There has been a proposed rate increase of 25 percent on our power bill and I wanted to write and tell you as a family farmer how I feel the rate increase would effect me and my family. In our area many of the farms have already gone broke. I have purchased several of my neighboring farms at fire sale prices in order that they could get a job that would provide support for their families and that I might get enough land to support my family still on the farm. I now farm about 3400 acres and most of the work is done by me and my kids. I operate on a very small prophet margin. A rate increase of 25 percent would put me into bankruptcy; a 15 percent increase may do the same thing. I know farmers can not get the majority vote but I ask you please to consider my plight.
Sincerely,
Reid G. Stewart
3100 West 1000 South
Aberdeen, ID

Transaction ID: 4261101.34
Referred by: http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/cons
User Address: 198.81.26.78
User Hostname: 198.81.26.78

Jean Jewell ✓Gen. Ack sent 4/27/04 ✓To Commrs ; It

From: secretary
Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2004 9:37 PM
To: Barb Barrows; Ed Howell; Janet Bahora; Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Case Number: IPC-E-03-13

>----------
>From: Dave Veselka[SMTP:DRVESELKA@YAHOO.COM]
>Sent: Saturday, April 24, 2004 9:36:35 PM
>To: secretary
>Subject: Case Number: IPC-E-03-13
>Auto forwarded by a Rule
>

Dave Veselka
Box 35
Indian Valley, ID 83632

April 24, 2004

Public Utilities Commissioners
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to deny the rate increase proposed for Idaho Power irrigation customers. My Idaho Power stock has done quite well for me the past few years,I'd say the company has ben very lucrative.Besides paying the stockholders well,I see some fairly spendy TV ads during prime time.Idaho Power has a captive custumer base,it's not like you can go down to Wal-Mart to buy your power.With a good cut back in the advertising budget,and knocking off the political donations Idaho Power can create it's own"rate increase".They don't need to donate to American Lunge or anybody else as they are a public utility not a booster club.There are also some "incentive funds",and some pention plans that need some close scrutiny.Please take these things in to consideration befor you give much of an increase.

✓ Gen. Ach sent 4/27/04 ✓ To Commrs

Jean Jewell

From: Jean Jewell
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2004 10:19 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Case Number: IPC-E-03-13

Ray Poe
1505 Delphic Way
Pocatello, ID 83201

April 22, 2004

Public Utilities Commissioners
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to deny the rate increase proposed for Idaho Power irrigation customers.

It is unfair to single out irrigation customers for significant increases, while other customer classes receive more favorable treatment. Any rate increases should be the same across the board, and at the lowest possible rate.

Farmers cannot pass on increased operating costs as many other businesses can. If irrigation rates are not kept to the absolute minimum, many who are already suffering from prolonged low commodity prices will be forced out of business. This will cause a tremendous negative ripple effect throughout the rural communities of the state.

The increases proposed by Idaho Power are unrealistic. As a regulated entity, they have been covering expenses and making a profit every year. As a sound business practice, Idaho Power should have been planning ahead and including upgrades to infrastructure and replacement costs for equipment and other necessary items. I find it hard to believe that they have not done this.

I strongly oppose the proposed increase in the customer charge from $2.51 to $10.00. With new innovations such as remote meter reading and electronic billing, the customer charge should be decreasing, not increasing.

Many of the expenses Idaho Power is asking ratepayers to cover should be disallowed. Only items that directly relate to the generation and delivery of electricity should be allowed in the base rate.

Please do not approve Idaho Power's request. The PUC staff proposal is much more realistic, although it too is unfair to irrigators. Farming is an important part of the economy in Idaho. An increase in rates of this size will be a significant blow to the continued viability of agriculture in the state.

I urge you to keep power rates for irrigation as low as possible. Do not allow irrigation rates to increase by a higher percentage than other rates.

Sincerely,

Ray Poe

✓Gen Ack sent 4/27/04 ✓To Commers : H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2004 3:53 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, April 22, 2004
2:53:27 PM

Case:
Name: Deanna W. Zeida
Street_Address: 329 W. Sheridan Ave.
City: Nampa
State: ID
ZIP: 83686
Home_Telephone: 208-466-7529
E-Mail: jeriana@wegointer.net
Company: Idaho Power
Comment_description: I want to reinforce the popular opinion that new growth, not established customers, should pay for increased power costs. We are retired and on a fixed income; and frankly we have no room for an increase in our budget.

Transaction ID: 4221453.27
Referred by: http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc
User Address: 67.136.142.134
User Hostname: 67.136.142.134

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/27/04 ✓ To Commrs

Jean Jewell

From: Jean Jewell
Sent: Thursday, April 22, 2004 9:11 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Case Number: IPC-E-03-13

> Tracy Walton
3525 Mesa
emmett, id 83617

April 21, 2004

Public Utilities Commissioners
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to urge you to deny the rate increase proposed for Idaho Power irrigation customers.

It is unfair to single out irrigation customers for significant increases, while other customer classes receive more favorable treatment. Any rate increases should be the same across the board, and at the lowest possible rate.

Farmers cannot pass on increased operating costs as many other businesses can. If irrigation rates are not kept to the absolute minimum, many who are already suffering from prolonged low commodity prices will be forced out of business. This will cause a tremendous negative ripple effect throughout the rural communities of the state.

The increases proposed by Idaho Power are unrealistic. As a regulated entity, they have been covering expenses and making a profit every year. As a sound business practice, Idaho Power should have been planning ahead and including upgrades to infrastructure and replacement costs for equipment and other necessary items. I find it hard to believe that they have not done this.

I strongly oppose the proposed increase in the customer charge from $2.51 to $10.00. With new innovations such as remote meter reading and electronic billing, the customer charge should be decreasing, not increasing.

Many of the expenses Idaho Power is asking ratepayers to cover should be disallowed. Only items that directly relate to the generation and delivery of electricity should be allowed in the base rate.

Please do not approve Idaho Power's request. The PUC staff proposal is much more realistic, although it too is unfair to irrigators. Farming is an important part of the economy in Idaho. An increase in rates of this size will be a significant blow to the continued viability of agriculture in the state.

I urge you to keep power rates for irrigation as low as possible. Do not allow irrigation rates to increase by a higher percentage than other rates.

Sincerely,

Tracy Walton

✓ Gen Ack sent 4/27/04 ✓ To Comms : 11

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 5:29 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, April 27, 2004
4:28:39 PM

Case: IPC-E-03-13
Name: Ernest T Prigge
Street_Address: 3382 W Chickory Way
City: Boise
State: ID
ZIP: 83706
Home_Telephone: 208.424.3149
E-Mail: etprigge@cableone.net
Company: Idaho Power
mailing_list_yes_no: no
Comment_description: I strongly disagree with the 25% rate increase for farmers!
I am an engineer working for Micron and I think making the farmer pay for all the power waste and growh in cities and industry at the expense of the few farmers left is a crime.
I doubt that use city folks will stay alive by eating Micron's discarded silicon wafers!
Ernie Prigge
Boise, ID

Transaction ID: 4271628.39
Referred by: http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc
User Address: 137.201.242.130
User Hostname: 137.201.242.130

✓ Aut. Ack. sent 4/28/04 ✓ To Commrs & H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2004 10:06 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, April 27, 2004
9:05:55 AM

Case: IPC-E-03--13
Name: Eva Brown
Street_Address: PO Box 16803
City: Boise
State: ID
ZIP: 83715
Home_Telephone: 208-387-5984
E-Mail:
Company: Idaho Power
mailing_list_yes_no: no
Comment_description: Idaho Power argues that rate increase need to cover the expantion to provide electricity to new customers. However they do not mention, that they will be getting additional income from new customers.
Why we should cover poor management of IP not paying into pension fund.
Why we should pay for higher investor return, then what is current -lousy- return in most investments.

Unfortunately rates will always go up, and never down, but that is why we have a Public utility commission. 3.06% increase is more than sufficient.
I VOTE NO TO HIGHER INCREASE THEN MAXIMUM OF 3.06%

Transaction ID: 427905.55
Referred by: http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc
User Address: 204.124.92.254
User Hostname: 204.124.92.254

I Could not have said it Better! George Carson
20566 Homedale Rd.
Caldwell, Id. 83607

▼ **Guest opinion**

Wrong people paying for Idaho Power's mistakes

By Ray Arp

Anybody who owns a business, or is employed by one, can understand some basic aspects of fair and sound business practices: treat customers fairly and don't make customers pay for your mistakes.

It would be great if Idaho Power stuck by these rules. Unfortunately, its latest proposal to increase rates is unfair to the general public and singles out farmers for the largest increase — all in an effort to make customers pay for the company's failed investments and inability to fairly fund growth. Over the past 10 years, the total amount of electricity used by irrigators has remained unchanged, yet Idaho Power wants to raise rates on irrigators 25 percent.

Here's an example of a mistake we're all being asked to pay for: the $49 million Danskin Power Plant in Mountain Home, which could be called the "White Elephant Generating Station." It has the highest cost per kilowatt generated of any facility in the Idaho Power system.

I understand that Idaho Power was trying to do its best to respond to the energy crisis in late 2000 and early 2001. But was it prudent to build and operate so quickly two 45-megawatt peaking units near Mountain Home, which only operate two hours per day, or 15 percent of permitted capability? This translates to a very high energy cost because the construction costs are fixed. This level of operation is far below what the company told the Idaho Public Utilities Commission it needed when it was justifying building the plants.

Additionally, the energy crisis was almost over when the PUC approved Idaho Power's application. Idaho Power management should have reassessed the economic impact before proceeding.

The upcoming Bennett Mountain generating facility may be a similar situation. Idaho Power should not try to recoup these kinds of costs from ratepayers. I agree that eating these costs will be expensive for the Idaho Power shareholders, but not as devastating to the bottom line of Idaho Power customers and, therefore, the state's economy. And it's just not fair.

Idaho Power says it needs the money to pay for $720 million invested in new generating, transmission and distribution facilities added since 1993. But this highlights the company's failure to fund growth. Sewer, water, natural gas and even local highway districts charge impact or connection fees to help new growth pay for itself. Idaho Power should find a way to do the same thing.

One thing's for sure. The increased demand for electricity hasn't happened because of agriculture. Over the past decade, the amount of electricity used by homes is up 18 percent, the amount used by large commercial interests is up 54 percent and the amount used by Micron is up 130 percent. The forecast is that irrigation will remain relatively flat while residential, commercial and industrial growth will keep growing.

In response, you'd think Idaho Power would be thinking of ways to get these groups to curtail energy usage, since they are driving the need for more power plants. Why isn't Idaho Power pressing forward with tiered rates for residential customers (charging more during peak times)?

Agreed, irrigators are a big factor in summer peak demands. But irrigators haven't been behind the need for new power plants. In fact, they've been at the forefront of conserving water (and therefore electricity) with drip irrigation, computer-controlled sprinkling and high-efficiency pumps. It's now time for residential and commercial users to show similar conservation success.

If you agree, I urge you to contact the Idaho Public Utilities Commission about this issue by April 30. Do not allow the PUC to finance Idaho Power's mistakes at the expense of the ratepayers.

A-Men

■ Ray Arp is an electrical engineer and a resident of Nampa.