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Sun Valley, ID 83353
March 18, 2009**

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IPC-E-08-10

**Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074**

RE: Idaho Power Acct 1187685060

Hello:

This letter is in regards to your rate increase with the new tier structure. Since last summer, we have been extremely conscious of lowering our energy usage. We rarely turned on air conditioning last summer. We clean our furnace filters regularly. We switched all our light bulbs, interior and exterior. We wash only with full loads (dishes and clothes). We have new energy efficient washer and dryer (Oct 08). We have addressed every part of our home (10 years old). These are just a handful of lots of ways we seriously began coserving and reducing energy.

In January we had an extremely high Idaho Power bill. We had an electrician and also a representative from Idaho Power come to our home to assess energy consumption. We have

since turned off our heat tapes on the roof, except for occasional use, and since the last power reading we have emptied, winterized, and turned off our hot tub.

We feel we are very conscious of energy use and conserve whenever possible, even though it makes for inconveniences. We were happy to learn from Jan 09 to Feb 09 we reduced our consumption from 9304 kWh used to 8353 kWh used.

Now imagine our chagrin to look further into the bill and find out our bill was \$20 higher!! In my wildest imagination, I do NOT see how your tier rate program is going to help people that are really consciously reducing power.

With a 4800 square foot home in the mountains, there is no possible way we would only use 2000 kWh in one month. The house would probably freeze up!! I don't want to pay a penny more than I need to for power bills, nor do I want to consume any more energy than necessary, but the sting of the rate increase and the way it is structured certainly nullifies our joy of what we thought was a substantial savings in usage.

Over ten years ago, the City of Seattle started a tiered rate structure for water usage. We were living in Seattle during this time. We received many notices monthly for about 3 months ahead

of time. Our bills showed us exactly what our usage for that month would look like in the new upcoming rate schedule. It was well explained and therefore there were no surprises when the new schedule kicked in. Also, each household had their own tier. It was designed on your usage during the past 12 months, evaluating each month. If you used less water in June of 95 than you had used the previous June of 94, your bill was less. It penalized those folks who were using MORE water than before. It also took into account how many people were living in your household the current year (survey included in bill). All in all, it was fair and balanced. People had great incentive to think about each time they turned on their faucet, washed clothes, and watered their lawns.

It's too bad Idaho Power has done such a poor job of explaining their new rates, omitted giving lots of advance explanation and warning, and providing almost no incentive for lower usage from their customers with the most usage.

The tier structure being the same for a small apartment and a 4800 square foot home does not make a bit of sense and is highly unfair. Who thinks this stuff up? We are most unhappy and disappointed customers.

Truly yours,

Phyllis Odell Mark Odell

Phyllis Odell

Mark Odell

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