

Jean Jewell

From: Senator Elliot Werk [elliotwerk@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 13, 2011 4:11 PM
To: Jean Jewell
Cc: rblukesh33@q.com
Subject: Customer Comment/Complaint
Attachments: Lukesh PUC Filing.pdf



ELLIOT WERK

IDAHO STATE SENATE

Jean:

Attached is a comment regarding Idaho Power's pending rate case that also should qualify as a general comment or request for the PUC to evaluate the current rate structure.

Mr. Lukesh is a constituent of mine and is upset that his electric rates are not discounted based on his home being heated solely with electricity. Progressive rates mean that he is penalized for the type of home heating system he uses. He feels that this is unfair and that the PUC and Idaho Power should evaluate the current rate structure.

Thank you for carefully considering Mr. Lukesh's request. If you have questions please contact Mr. Lukesh at 344-3105 or via email at rblukesh33@q.com . You can also contact me at this email address.

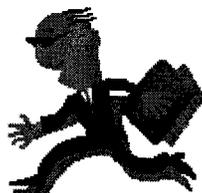
Elliot Werk

6810 Randolph Drive

Boise, ID 83709

658-0388

[Click Here to View My Web Site](#)



RECEIVED

2011 JUL 13 PM 4: 27

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IPC-E-11-08

7-12-11

To: PUC, Public Utilities Commission

Subject: Idaho Power Progressive Billing System

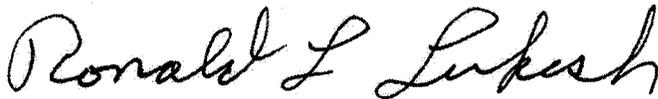
I am asking the PUC to have some compassion for people who heat their homes with electricity. In the eighties and nineties Idaho Power encouraged people to heat their homes with electricity with incentives, then they abandoned the practice.

People who heat their homes today pay a penalty to Idaho Power and we are asking the PUC to correct this progressive billing system. When you go to Albertsons to buy milk, four separate quarts of milk will cost more than one gallon. That is the American way; Idaho Power billing practice is un-American.

I have included an Idaho Statesman article about Idaho Power and two of my Idaho Power statements on two separate dates 1/20/2010 and 1/19/2011 which shows the progressive billing system and also increases in cost from year to year.

I am asking the PUC again to ask Idaho Power to abandon the practice of the progressive billing system for people who heat their homes with electricity. I have asked Elliot Werk, Senator District 17 to include a cover letter supporting my request.

Thank You,



Ronald L. Lukesh

5861 Anna

Boise, ID 83709

208-344-3105

rblukesh33@q.com

Encls.

Power bills shock Idahoans

Idaho Power rate hikes for customers who use a lot of electricity were exacerbated by low water and cold weather.

BY ROCKY BARKER

rbarker@idahostatesman.com
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Karen Thompson of Weiser knew she used a little extra electricity in December because of the Christmas lights.

But when she and her husband got their Idaho Power bill in January they were shocked. It was \$429.

The increase was "the most it has ever gone up in our lives,"

Thompson said.

Thompson was not alone. Idaho Power rates for the average customer rose more than 13 percent over December 2008 thanks to a series of rate hikes in 2009. At the same time, low stream flows reduced Idaho Power's hydroelectric power production — prompting a cost adjustment that represented 67 percent of the increase alone.

Topping it off, a cold snap in December shot the average monthly use up from 1,050 kilowatt hours to 1,351 kwh. And for people like Thompson who heat with electricity,

See IDAHO POWER, A4

MANAGE YOUR USAGE

If you have a smart meter and you want to follow your electric energy use online, go to www.idahopower.com and register. You will need your Idaho Power Co. account number from your electric bill.

Once you have a user name and password, you will come to the account manager page. From there, click on the energy tools button on the right. There will be all kinds of tools for you to evaluate your bill and use. The detailed info is under "more meter views" at the bottom right.

There you can look at your weekly, daily and even hourly energy use.

IDAHO POWER

CONTINUED FROM A1

the hit was even harder because of a new tiered rate structure that charges the biggest users more for power.

"I find it alarming that you have allowed Idaho Power to raise their rates so high in the existing economy considering the high cost of living and jobless people and the prospect of a very slow economical recovery," Thompson said in a complaint filed with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, which regulates utility rates.

The PUC has received dozens of complaints from Idaho Power customers — especially from people who used more than 2,000 kilowatt hours per month and were forced to pay the highest rate in a system designed to encourage people to use less power. The commission has asked its staff to put together a report on the tiered rate system to see if it needs to be modified, said PUC spokesman Gene Fadness.

"I get what they're trying to do and I think it's a good idea," said Bethany Haase, who saw her bill rise to \$314. "It would have been nice if beforehand they had put something in their bill telling about it and estimating what their bill would be."

Idaho Power did send letters to people who used 3,500 kwh last January. And the utility included an announcement about the tiered rates in all customers' bills, said Stephanie McCurdy, an Idaho Power spokeswoman.

When her high bill came, Haase was already in the middle of installing a high-efficiency heating system in her home —

LEARN MORE

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Consumer Assistance Division:
334-0300 or 1-800-432-0369
Idaho Power Customer Service Center:
388-2323 or 1-800-488-6151

spending \$6,100 so she could take advantage of a \$1,500 federal tax credit.

"I can't say we'll be in the clear yet," she said. "We'll be watching."

Idaho Power has been encouraging its customers to become more energy-efficient because its costs for producing electricity are dramatically increasing. It has maxed out its hydroelectric power potential, and because of international concerns about greenhouse gases, the company can't expand its coal power plants in Nevada and Wyoming. Its Oregon plant is actually closing, leaving natural gas and alternative sources like wind the other options.

But the cheapest option is promoting efficiency, which is why the PUC and the utility put the tiered rates into effect. People with electric homes use the most power in the winter and the summer to heat and cool their homes.

Some simply can't get their use down below the 2,000 kwh level, at which point the highest rate kicks in.

Jeff Majors, a Boise chiropractor and businessman, said he has reduced his use by 15 percent over the past three years. But he has a big house and three daughters who depend on everything from hot baths to hair dryers. He's been paying \$450 a month this winter, and in the summer his bill ballooned to more

than \$700.

"The system is unfair to customers like myself," Majors said.

Idaho Power and the PUC encourage people who are unhappy with their bills to contact them. For people who can't afford their bills, there are programs to help them, said Teresa Drake, Idaho Power's manager for customer relations and energy efficiency.

The utility also can help steer people to programs to help make their homes more energy-efficient — like a weatherization program currently available under the federal stimulus package.

The PUC staff is compiling the energy load characteristics for each of the homes of people who call, Fadness said.

"For customers with especially large loads, we plan on working with the company to go into each of those homes and show them changes they can make to reduce their consumption," Fadness said.

Idaho Power already offers a variety of programs to help people reduce their bills. The air conditioner Cool Credit Program pays customers to allow Idaho Power to turn off their air conditioners briefly at peak periods.

And both PUC and Idaho Power officials expect the power cost adjustment to drop dramatically this spring — reducing all bills because river flows last year helped the company make power more cheaply.

Thompson has added insulation to her home and is especially careful now about her energy use, she said. Her last bill dropped to \$341.

"Well, I guess that it will teach us to conserve energy or die trying," she said.

Rocky Barker: 377-6484



Questions? Contact us at:
 PO BOX 70, Boise, ID 83707.
 Or call (208) 388-2323 (Treasure Valley).
 Se habla español.
 For faster service please call
 Tuesday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Customer Name: RONALD L LUKESH
 Account Number: 1963276119
 Billing Date: 01/20/2010
 Print Date: 01/20/2010

www.idahopower.com

Service Agreement No: 0217131018

Next Read Date: 02/12/2010

Service Location: 5861 ANNA ST/BOISE, ID

Meter Number	Service Period		Number of Days	Reading Type	Meter Readings		Meter Constant	kWh Used
	From	To			Previous	Current		
502A75307135	12/15/09	01/15/10	31	Regular	11853	14850	1	2997

Billing kW	BLC
19	0

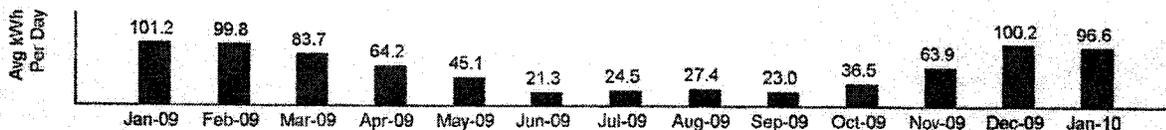
**Residential
Rate Schedule
I01**

12/15/2009 - 01/15/2010 31 days

Service Charge	\$4.00
Non-Summer Energy Charge 0-800 kWh @ \$0.056953 per kWh	\$45.56
Non-Summer Energy Charge 801-2000 kWh @ \$0.063282 per kWh	\$75.94
Non-Summer Energy Charge Over 2000 kWh @ \$0.072774 per kWh	\$72.56
PCA @ \$0.014022 per kWh	\$42.02
Franchise Fee 1%	\$2.40
Energy Efficiency Services	\$11.00
A/C Cool Credit	\$0.00
Current Charges - Electric Service	\$253.48

CR = Credit kWh = Kilowatt-hour PCA = Power Cost Adjustment kW = Kilowatt BLC = Basic Load Capacity G = Generation

**Your Electric
Use Pattern**



BILLING DATE 1/20/2010



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 Or call (208) 388-2323 (Treasure Valley).
 Se habla español.
 For faster service please call
 Tuesday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Customer Name: RONALD L LUKESH
 Account Number: 1963276119
 Billing Date: 01/19/2011
 Print Date: 01/19/2011

www.idahopower.com

Service Agreement No: 0217131018

Next Read Date: 02/11/2011

Service Location: 5861 ANNA ST/BOISE, ID

Meter Number	Service Period		Number of Days	Reading Type	Meter Readings		Meter Constant	kWh Used
	From	To			Previous	Current		
502A75307135	12/15/10	01/14/11	30	Regular	30881	34100	1	3219

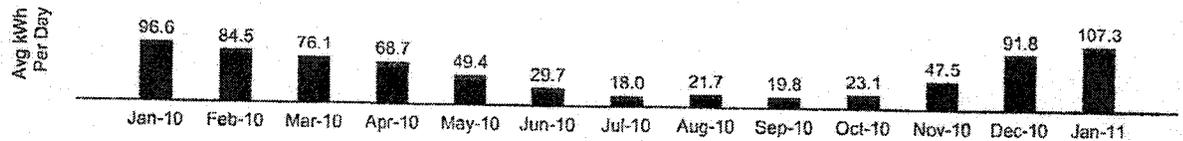
Billing kW	BLC
17	0

Residential
 Rate Schedule
 I01

12/15/2010 - 01/14/2011 30 days	
Service Charge	\$4.00
Non-Summer Energy Charge 0-800 kWh @ \$0.065262 per kWh	\$52.21
Non-Summer Energy Charge 801-2000 kWh @ \$0.072514 per kWh	\$87.02
Non-Summer Energy Charge Over 2000 kWh @ \$0.083389 per kWh	\$101.65
PCA @ \$0.003114 per kWh	\$10.02
Franchise Fee 1%	\$2.55
Energy Efficiency Services	\$15.55
A/C Cool Credit	\$0.00
Current Charges - Electric Service	\$273.00

CR = Credit kWh = Kilowatt-hour PCA = Power Cost Adjustment kW = Kilowatt BLC = Basic Load Capacity G = Generation

Your Electric
 Use Pattern



BILLING DATE 1/19/2011