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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

3932 Leland Way
Boise, Idaho 83709
January 8, 2017

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

Sirs;

It seems that Idaho Power knows no bounds to its greed since they formed the phony "holding company". We all know that IDACORP and Idaho Power are one and the same company. There are no other companies in the holding company.

Now they want to speed up the recovery of their investment in the Valmy power plant and close it. They have destroyed the area where the plant is located but instead of upgrading the plant with new equipment as a homeowner would do. Instead they want to abandon the site to rust away and go destroy some other area.

It is all in a mad and not too well thought out idea that wind and solar will supply a RELIABLE SOURCE of energy to an increasing population. Tell me, how much solar and wind power has the Northwest had this last month to month and a half??? Not a hell of a lot ~~and~~ and certainly not enough to power the heaters needed to keep the homes warm or to heat the extremely cold water used for cleaning and bathing. I have a solar watch. It has not been able to get enough energy from the sun to run. If something that small can't operate then how do you expect to produce enough to power all the things we use today that is powered by electricity? And a few years ago we had a small pond. We got a solar powered pump to run a small fountain during the summer. That solar panel failed within 3 years. Nothing is said about the life of solar panels and how much they are going to cost to be replaced; most likely within a 10 year period.

I do NOT agree that ratepayers should be paying Idaho Power shareholders big dividends to destroy a perfectly good operating plant located on a fairly remote site. Yes, we saw the site some years ago. It seemed to be fairly clean for the times. Since then coal has been treated to be cleaner. So the only reason they want to shut it down is for a fast profit now with no care for the future costs and failures of wind and solar power.

Idaho Power also wants charity from their ratepayers. They want us to PAY THEM \$562.00 so they can play with some solar array. They do not say where the solar panels are, if they are now in existence and how in the hell is the power lines going to know that "gee, that is solar power so I go here". The "subscriber" gets a couple bucks a month for 25 years! We know that most people do not stay in one home or many times even, the same city or state for 25 years. That my friends is charity to a company trying very hard to convince people that they are helping the environment when in fact there is little effect on it.

We all know that electrons created by whatever source does not separate out going down the power lines. They do not say "oh, I am from solar so I go to this house, or I came from wind so I go to this house." And so on. We are charged MORE for so called clean energy, which, of course, is free from the sun and wind. Yes, it must be extracted but so does gas and oil need to be extracted by drilling.

So NO, Idaho Power needs to learn to tighten their belts and stop gouging us customers. Most of us see no wage increase and many saw a wage DECREASE. The elderly and disabled saw next to nothing to help us pay for the ever increasing cost for utilities even though we use less when we can. (The weather this year has thrown a ringer into that effort!) Our Social Security did not increase to speak of. It was 00.3% a whopping \$3.00 a month more. (And if you happen to get food stamps your allowance was cut by that much. Whoopee, we live high on the hog in this state.) But Idaho Power wants a 3.00% increase.

Without a doubt Suez will want another 10.00% increase, telephone will go up for something I use very little yet pay \$13.00 for long distance that I seldom use. I never make long distance calls within the state yet I must pay the \$2.00 charge. When I asked to have it removed they said if I did it removed ALL long distance yet it set up as a separate charge on the bill. What will happen with natural gas and trash I do not know. Trash has held steady so I suppose they will want more too to pick up a grocery sack of trash weekly. There again I asked to have monthly trash pickup since I have so little. I was refused with the excuse that if a person opted out the poor trash company wouldn't make enough money! In other words we are to pay for no service just so the trash company can charge us over and over and over for their trash cans and NOT pick up anything at all. Many a time people have not set trash out so the truck just drives by providing NO SERVICE yet insisting on being paid. In my younger days we paid ONLY for service received not for pretend service.

That is my thoughts on this constant whining for rate increases ever 6 months by utilities with no change in service except to decrease service.

Because of this weather and no service from the highway district who takes the tax dollars from county residents and uses them for the city only and nothing for us here in the county, I can not get out to get black ink for my printer so must use another color.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mrs. Walt Hickstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Mrs. Walt Hickstein