

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** sodacoc@sodachamber.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2010 4:49 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce follows:

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Case Number: PAC-E-10-07  
Name: Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce  
Address:  
City: Soda Springs  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83276  
Daytime Telephone:  
Contact E-Mail: [sodacoc@sodachamber.com](mailto:sodacoc@sodachamber.com)  
Name of Utility Company: Rocky Mountain Power  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

As a resident of southeast Idaho, you undoubtedly know, the utility providing electricity to 70,000 southeastern Idaho customers, Rocky Mountain Power, has pending before the Public Utilities Commission a proposal asking for a 13.71% average increase. On top of this \$27.7 million jump in rates, the company is also asking for a guaranteed rate of return of 10.6% on their investments.

Being an organization that represents businesses, we certainly understand the concept of one trying to get as much for their product or service as the market is willing to pay for. If the features, advantages and benefits of your offering are better than a competitor's, it's understandable that you may be able to ask for, and in many cases obtain, a higher price. Conversely, if your product or service is inferior, there is a chance that you may not be in business for long unless you're the "only game in town".

Unfortunately, when it comes to investor owned utilities such as Rocky Mountain Power, the normal dynamics of a free market don't apply. In exchange for providing a reliable and safe electric supply they are provided an exclusive state sanctioned monopoly in a specific geography where they don't have to suffer the challenges of competition - i.e. they are the "only game in town". However, being the sole provider of electricity can lead an organization to overreach when it comes to what they believe they ought to receive in terms of compensation. And in this case the double digit increases the utility is asking for has the potential to seriously impact, if not devastate, the southeastern Idaho economy.

Rocky Mountain Power's rate proposal hits all customers at a time when the economy is at its most vulnerable in many generations. And, if approved, the increase could have an especially devastating impact to our few remaining large employers such as Monsanto and Agrium. The phosphate mining and processing industry are the two largest contributors to the local economy. Monsanto's operations alone provide more than 770 direct jobs - approximately 13% of workers in Caribou County and 8% of workers in Bear Lake County. According to a recent Idaho Department of Labor estimate, the loss of Monsanto operations would cost the region an additional 1,478 jobs beyond those directly employed by Monsanto. Our region cannot handle the economic ruin that would come about with the loss of Monsanto.

Fortunately, this is not yet a "fate accompli". There is opportunity for all ratepayers - households, farmers, manufacturers, etc. - to make their opinion known. The Public Utilities

Commission is holding public hearings in Grace on Wednesday, Dec. 15, 1:30 p.m., Grace American Legion Hall, 50 N. First West, and in Preston on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Robinson Building, 186 W. Second North.

Show up, stand up, and let your voice be heard! Now is not the time to be idle and hope someone else will speak up on your behalf. Your family's, and southeastern Idaho's, future depends on your weighing in.

Sincerely,

Dianne, Director

Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 697

Soda Springs, ID 83276

208-547-4964

[sodacoc@sodachamber.com](mailto:sodacoc@sodachamber.com)

Shop local!

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 216.128.239.31

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**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** vmascarenas@co.caribou.id.us  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2010 4:35 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Caribou County Commissioners follows:

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Case Number: PAC-E-10-07  
Name: Caribou County Commissioners  
Address: 159 S Main  
City: Soda Springs  
State: ID  
Zip: 83276  
Daytime Telephone: 208-547-4324  
Contact E-Mail: [vmascarenas@co.caribou.id.us](mailto:vmascarenas@co.caribou.id.us) Name of Utility Company: Rocky Mounty Power  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

Caribou County Commissioners Earl Somsen and Lloyd Rasmussen attende your hearing for Rocky Mountain Power's rate increase. We thank you for choosing Grace as one of your meeting places.

After hearing testimony from various people we agree with most.

1. We don't believe residents of Idaho should have to pay for the transmission lines to deliver power from wind farms in Wyoming to the west coast states.
2. We do believe a large rate of increase for power would have a large impact on our industry and the ripple down effect would cause hardship on our residents and businesses.
3. However prices on repairs and replacements, wages, etc. keep rising so Rocky Mountain Power should have a small raise.
4. Additional energy expence for agriculture is a great concern. This would have a significant negative impact on many of our local producers.
5. We have a great concern of the effect caused by a rate increase for the fixed income and low income residents of Caribou County.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 216.128.239.31

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## Jean Jewell

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**From:** smith5js@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2010 4:05 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Gerald and Jo Ann Smith follows:

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Case Number:  
Name: Gerald and Jo Ann Smith  
Address: 596 Eagle Drive  
City: Preston  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83263  
Daytime Telephone: 208 852 0767  
Contact E-Mail: [smith5js@gmail.com](mailto:smith5js@gmail.com)  
Name of Utility Company:  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

After attending the rate hearing in Preston Idaho on the 15th of December, we felt it important for us to make comment. We are on a tight fixed income, most of it social security, which we have paid into all of our working life. Our savings are not giving much if any interest. The Government has decreed that there is no inflation so even a cost of living increase has been withheld for several years.

We have cut our electrical use and have used means to make our home energy efficient. We feel that the increase that Rocky Mountain Power proposed would be a hardship in these economic times for us and for others who are in our fixed income position.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 207.225.33.152  
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## Jean Jewell

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**From:** snedaker@d321.k12.id.us  
**Sent:** Friday, December 17, 2010 8:38 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Varr Snedaker follows:

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Case Number: PAC-E-10-07  
Name: Varr Snedaker  
Address: 148 S 5th W  
City: Rexburg  
State: ID  
Zip: 83440  
Daytime Telephone: 208-359-3300  
Contact E-Mail: [snedaker@d321.k12.id.us](mailto:snedaker@d321.k12.id.us)  
Name of Utility Company: Rocky Mountain Power  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I attended the public hearing in Rexburg on 12/14/2010. From the opening comments at the meeting I understood that the information the PUC can use to make a determination has to do with prudently incurred expenses and must allow a reasonable rate of return.

The rate of return of over 10% should be questioned in this economy since other investments have been well below 10% in recent years and the rate of return should be questioned by the Commission.

The second issue has to do with whether the costs are prudent expenditures. The information I have received states that the capacity of the Gateway Project is 10 times larger than the needs of Idaho and that the new transmission lines are intended to be used to transmit electricity from the Wyoming Wind project across Idaho to Oregon & California where those states require that a certain amount of alternative energy is used. Because of those two issues, the huge investment does not appear to be a prudent expenditure benefiting users in Idaho and therefore should not be built into the rates for Idaho users who are not benefiting from the new lines. It seems only fair that the users who will be benefiting from the Gateway Project, those who will be the actual users of the transmission lines, are the ones who should pay for it - these users appear to be businesses and residents of Oregon and California. Please consider carefully to what extent those huge costs benefit Idaho users. Before you make a decision, please make sure you are clear on who the real users are who will benefit from the transmission lines. Please protect Idaho users and ensure that those benefiting from the new transmission lines are the users who will pay for the costs of the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 198.60.195.11

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