

✓ Ack sent 10/13/05

✓ To Commms 7 H

Jean Jewell

From: Jean Jewell
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2005 9:46 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Complaint acknowledgement

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 2:48 PM
To: Front; bev; barker@puc.idaho.gov; Ed Howell; Tonya Clark
Subject: Complaint acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
1:48:05 PM

Name: Linda West
Street_Address: 813 Warner Ave. #15
City: Lewiston
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83501
Home_Telephone: 208-746-3982
Work_Telephone:
E-Mail: misskalie2@webtv.net
Home_Business: Home
Business_Name:
Business_Street_Address:
Business_Phone:
Complaint_Company: Avista Utility
Local_Provider:
Contacted_utility: yes
Complaint_description: I am a widow and I am disabled. I can not afford any higher utilities. How are we to live if our utilities keep going up?

Thank you for you time reading this.
Linda West.

Transaction ID: 10121348.5
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/cons>
User Address: 209.240.205.61
User Hostname: 209.240.205.61

✓ Adv. Ack sent 10/13/05 *✓ To Comments*

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2005 9:55 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, October 13, 2005
8:55:25 AM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Eric Petersen
Street Address: 2802 N. Stone Pines Ct
City: Coeur d'Alene
State: ID
ZIP: 83815
Home Telephone: 208-664-1824
E-Mail: eleven20@verizon.net
Company:

mailing_list_yes_no: no

Comment_description: I oppose the rate hike for the following reasons:

- 1- Avista's profitability is not at risk.
- 2- Avista secured contracts for the 2004 - 2005 Winter season well in advance of the rapid price hikes for natural gas, probably in early Spring. This is a ploy they are using to get this rate hike. If you'll remember, you made this request in July and prepared it well before then. The spot price of natural gas has risen most dramatically over the past 45 days and has no affect on their profitability!
- 3- If a 24% increase is accepted by the commission it will be one more nail that impacts the economic stability of the community. Jobs and disposable income will be adversely impacted.

Eric Petersen

Transaction ID: 1013855.25
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.107.168.210
User Hostname: 65.107.168.210

✓ Don Ack sent 10/13/05 *✓ To Commus*

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 5:55 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
4:54:57 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Tim McCormick
Street Address: 5321 E. Pinegrove Dr
City: Coeur d' Alene
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83815
Home Telephone: 208-665-7088
E-Mail: timmc@contractorsnorthwest.com
Company: AVISTA

mailing_list_yes_no: no

Comment_description: AVISTA wants to raise our costs again. They have gas contractrs locked in. They have enough gas to run the Rathdrum power plant. They need to share in more of the costs and not put it all on the shoulders of the customers. They are still making money and good profit on the power they produce. Do not punish the customers any more.

Transaction ID: 10121654.57
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.107.168.210
User Hostname: 65.107.168.210

*✓ Alan. Aik sent 10/13/05 ✓ To A.V. ✓ To Comments
i H*

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 5:06 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
4:05:41 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Laura LaChapelle
Street_Address: 1512 Fruitdale Ave`
City: Coeur d'Alene
State: ID
ZIP: 83815
Home_Telephone: 667-8397
E-Mail: lalaurala@msn.com
Company: Avista
mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: I wish to protest your rate hike. It is absurd to think us as people and a community can afford the increase and still maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle for our children and elderly parents. This while all the time filling the pockets of people who have never been hungry, cold or unable to financially take care of themselves.

Transaction ID: 10121605.41.
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.107.168.210
User Hostname: 65.107.168.210

✓ Ken Acke
sent 10/13/05

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comms
i H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 5:01 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
4:01:10 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Henry L Grafton
Street Address: 8148 N. Marabou Drive
City: Hayden
State: ID
ZIP: 83835

Home Telephone: 208-762-7156
E-Mail: lgrafton@emiproducts.com
Company: Avista Utilities

mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment description: 1- Avista's profitability is not at risk.
2- Avista secured contracts for the 2004 - 2005 Winter season well in advance of the rapid price hikes for natural gas, probably in early Spring. This is a ploy they are using to get this rate hike. If you'll remember, they made this request in July and prepared it well before then. The spot price of natural gas has risen most dramatically over the past 45 days and has no affect on their profitability!
3- If a 24% increase is accepted by the commission it will be one more nail that impacts the economic stability of the community. Jobs and disposable income will be adversely impacted.
4- Has Avista CEO Gary Ely cut back on the use of the company jet? Throttled back, flying commercial? Of course not and until he does then they must be doing quite well thank you. Times are tough and as the sole provider of natural gas in North Idaho they need to feel it with the rest of us.

Thank you,

Henry L Grafton

Transaction ID: 10121601.10
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 70.36.5.86
User Hostname: 70.36.5.86

✓ Gen Ack
sent 10/13/05

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comments
; It

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 4:39 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
3:39:23 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Laurie Kazlauskas
Street Address: 6010 E. Frazier Drive
City: Post Falls
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83854
Home Telephone: 208-773-2670
E-Mail: FAKLC@aol.com

Company: Avista
mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: I cannot believe Avista wants a 24% price hike. Avista's profitability is not at risk. Avista secured contracts for the 2004 - 2005 Winter season well in advance of the rapid price hikes for natural gas, probably in early Spring. The spot price of natural gas has risen most dramatically over the past 45 days and has no affect on Avista's profitability! If a 24% increase is accepted by the commission it will be one more nail that impacts the economic stability of the community. Jobs and disposable income will be adversely impacted. Has Avista CEO Gary Ely cut back on the use of the company jet? And look at your stock. I think it's a disgrace.

Transaction ID: 10121539.23
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.216.75.240
User Hostname: 65.216.75.240

✓ Gen Ack sent 10/13/05 *✓ To A.V.* *✓ To Comments § 14*
Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 4:33 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
3:33:16 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: David Wilson
Street_Address: 3938 N. Playfair St
City: Coeur d Alene
State: ID
ZIP: 83815
Home_Telephone: 208-640-1553
E-Mail: tdwilson@adelphia.net
Company: Avista/Gas Kootenai Elec/Electric
mailing_list_yes_no: yes
Comment_description: I am appauled at the 24% rate increase that Avista is seeking.
Please do not impact my pocket book, it seems that all agencies just take and take any more.

Regards,
Dave Wilson

Transaction ID: 10121533.16
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.216.75.240
User Hostname: 65.216.75.240

✓ Ben Ask
sent 10/13/05

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commrs
; H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 4:10 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
3:10:17 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Reid Harlocker
Street_Address: 1635 E Miles Ave
City: Hayden Lake
State: ID
ZIP: 83835
Home_Telephone: 208-762-8562
E-Mail: rharlocker@transtector.com
Company: Avista

mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: Please add my objection to the proposed Avista 24% rate hike for natural gas. Although there have been recent rapid increases in the spot market price of natural gas they should have limited impact on Avista. Market prices have risen dramatically over the past sixty days and I can assure the commission that Avista had secured contracts for this coming Winter season well before these very recent increases. Understandably Avista is a for profit company, but at the same time they are also this communities sole source supplier. Avista would be well advised to submit to the same struggles faced by its customers during these radical market swings. The effect of such a dramatic and I feel unwarranted increase will significantly impact both commercial and residential customers alike, causing economic hardship and possibly job lay offs resulting from the rapid increases driven by all sectors of the energy market. It is my hope that Mr. Ely has taken the Presidents request to cut back seriously as well and curtailed use of the company jet during these trying times. Rejecting Avista's request or limiting it to a more manageable level will not impact the long term profitability of this company.

Transaction ID: 10121510.17
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 65.216.75.240
User Hostname: 65.216.75.240

✓ Men Ask
sent 10/13/05

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.
; H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2005 1:53 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Wednesday, October 12, 2005
12:53:16 PM

Case: *AVU-G-05-02*
Name: John and Nora McNall
Street Address: 1824 Powers Ave.
City: Lewiston,
State: ID
ZIP: 83501
Home Telephone: 208-798-5584
E-Mail: calamityjane@lewiston.com
Company: Avista

mailing_list_yes_no: yes
Comment_description: It is my understanding that Avista is soon to raise our gas and electric bills. We live on a fixed income, and have exorbitant medical bills. This raise will effect us greatly. We now dress in three layers of clothing, and turn the heat off totally at night, and have all the windows covered with plastic. The insulation in the house is excellent. I do hope you will reconsider in granting this raise in our utilities.

Transaction ID: 10121253.16
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 204.52.247.89
User Hostname: 204.52.247.89

*✓ Ben Ask
marked 10/13/05*

*✓ To Commis
: 14*

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2005 7:22 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, October 11, 2005
6:22:24 PM

Case: AVU-G-05-02
Name: Ruth Briggs
Street Address: 1609 north Bill street
City: Post falls
State: idaho
ZIP: 83854
Home Telephone:
E-Mail:
Company: Avista

mailing_list_yes_no: no
Comment_description: I don't want another rate increase with Avista. But my ideas don't mean anything. It seems the government gave the energy corpportations tax breaks just recently. Why all the greed?? The company makes probably enough to give the consumers free energy costs for one year..Maybe the executives and shareholders and such could learn to live with less like the rest of the real world. Humanity where is it??? my voice means nothing./

Transaction ID: 10111822.24
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 4.178.87.146
User Hostname: 4.178.87.146

✓ To AV. ✓ To Comms
3 H

H.F. MAGNUSON COMPANY

SCOTT BUILDING
P.O. BOX 469
WALLACE, IDAHO 83873

RECEIVED
FILED

2005 OCT 13 AM 8:08

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITY COMMISSION 9361

208 752-1131

October 10, 2005

Mr. Paul Kjellander, President
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
472 W. Washington
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Mr. Kjellander:

I am enclosing a copy of the article which appeared in the local paper regarding a request by Avista to increase the natural gas rates.

I would like to respectfully point out that unemployment in Shoshone County ranks among the highest in the state of Idaho. In addition, the economy of the Silver Valley continues to be depressed as a result of several mine closures.

We respectfully ask that you review the request for a natural gas price increase very closely and keep the increase, if any, to a minimum.

I wish to thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



H. F. Magnuson

HFM:sla
Enclosure



Avista requests natural gas hike for Idaho customers

By BRIAN WALKER
Hagadone News Network

POST FALLS — Avista Utilities is turning up the heat with natural gas prices.

The investor-owned utility, which has 66,000 natural gas customers in North Idaho, has requested an overall increase in gas revenues of about \$15.7 million (23.8 percent) in Idaho.

A residential or small business customer using the average of 70 therms per month would see an average increase of \$16.36 per month, or about 23.4 percent. The total bill, including the increase, would be \$86.36.

"The upward trend of crude oil prices has a direct correlation on natural gas prices," said Avista spokeswoman Catherine Markson. "Wholesale natural gas prices are also 40 percent higher than last year."

Avista has requested that the Idaho Public Utilities Commission start the proposed increase on Nov. 1.

The increase is a "purchase gas adjustment" to cover the rise in wholesale prices, Markson said. It is not a base rate hike.

The increase would come on the heels of last year's combined 21 percent jump (14 percent for PGA; 7 for base rate), said IPUC spokesman Gene Fadness. The base rate increase was the first in several years.

Avista's electric rates would remain unchanged. Avista has also applied for a one-year extension of a 2.45 percent surcharge that allows the utility to recover above-normal costs

of supplying electricity to its customers.

The proposed gas increases do not reflect Hurricane Katrina's impact, Markson said. Any lasting effects of Katrina on prices would be reflected in future Avista filings. The Department of Energy projects a national average increase of 52 percent for natural gas customers this winter.

Fadness said IPUC will set a public comment period on the proposed increases in about a week. A determination on the request will be made at the end of October.

"There's very little wiggle room to deny them if they've made prudent (wholesale) purchasing decisions," Fadness said.

In Washington, where

Avista has 135,000 natural gas customers, the average household would see an average increase of \$16.39 per month, or about 23.5 percent. Avista has requested an overall increase in revenues of \$38.6 million in that state.

Larry Bryant, marketing manager for the nonprofit Kootenai Electric Cooperative in Hayden, said the firm has no scheduled electricity rate hikes. The co-op doesn't sell natural gas.

Markson said homeowners can reduce their natural gas bill by as much as 10 percent by reducing air leaks with caulking around windows and adding weather strips to doors. Turning the thermostat down 10 to 15 percent for eight hours a day also helps.

Avista offers payment programs and an energy assistance program called Project Share for those in need. Information (800) 227-9187, www.avistatilities.com

"We'll work with any customer who has difficulty paying the bills," Markson said. "The key is to call early. The longer you put it off, the harder it is for us to create options."

To comment on the proposed increases, write the IPUC at 472 W. Washington P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or call (208) 334-0300. Copies of the proposed changes are available at Avista or the IPUC.

BUSINESS

Proposed Avista rate increase challenged

Assistant attorney general says hike should be only 2.3 percent, not 9 percent

By Alison Bogs

Staff writer

A Washington assistant attorney general is calling for Avista Utilities' proposed electric rate increase to be cut by more than 70 percent, saying the computer model the company used to predict power costs is flawed.

Simon Fitch, chief of the public counsel division, which is charged with protecting consumer interests, is recommending that the Spokane energy company only be allowed to raise Washington residential customers' electric rates by 2.3 percent, down from the 9 percent the company is proposing. The 9 percent increase would raise the average customer's bill about \$5 a month. In addition, Fitch said, the company's natural gas rates for Washington customers should actually be reduced, by .08 percent, which would put about a nickel a

month back in the pockets of customers.

"If you look at the actual underlying power costs, they're not supported by the computer model," Fitch said after filing his recommendations with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission late Thursday. "The computer doesn't come up with the right numbers."

Avista's rates manager, Don Falkner, said the company's computer model, called Aurora, is used by several other regulated utilities in the Northwest and was used in Avista's Idaho rate case last year, with no issues. He said the Washington commission's staff has not raised any concerns about using this computer model. Falkner said when forecasting power rates, there are "always variables and assumptions," upon which people differ.

"We think that there are a number of in-

accuracies in their analysis," Falkner said. "A lot of it is not supported by sound evidence."

In addition, Falkner said, every year Avista applies to the Idaho and Washington commissions for the difference between what the company charges in its rates and what it actually ends up paying for power. Even if lower rates were approved by the commission based on the attorney general's arguments, the company would still seek to recover those power costs at a later date, Falkner said.

The attorney general's office originally supported a 4.5 percent increase in electric rates, still half of what Avista wants. Then accounting experts hired by the attorney general's office reviewed testimony given in the rate case for a group called the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities. The attorney general's office then adopted that group's

position. ICNU first raised concerns with the computer modeling program in August.

Avista filed its proposal to raise electric and natural gas rates for Washington customers in March. Electric rates would have gone up by an average of 12.5 percent, but residential customers would have seen a more than 14 percent increase. Natural gas rates would have risen by less than 1 percent.

In August, Avista reached a settlement with three parties to the case, including the staff of the utilities commission, The Energy Group, an advocacy group for low-income consumers, and the Northwest Industrial Gas Users. The settlement calls for average electric rate increases of 7.7 percent, with residential customers seeing about a 9 percent increase. Larger commercial customers would pay a lower rate. Under the settlement, natural gas rate increases would drop to about .6 percent.

Avista has attributed the need to raise rates

to the money it has spent beefing up generation and transmission systems, the purchase of a power plant in Oregon, and improvements made at its Cabinet Gorge Dam. In addition, company costs are rising for gas, insurance, wages and benefits, Avista officials have said.

An addendum to the proposed settlement calls for the new rates to take effect Jan. 1. The utilities commission will hold a public hearing in Spokane on Oct. 11 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Spokane Airport Ramada Inn. A decision is expected within the following months.

The company's proposed rate increase is different than the request it filed recently to pass through the higher costs it is paying for natural gas. That request would affect both Washington and Idaho customers and would increase natural gas rates by more than 23 percent. The commission is expected to consider that request in late October.