

Bar Barrows
Deny (2-24-09)
TO PUC
TO Comms 1/14
Barb Barrows

From: radiant@cableone.net
Sent: Wednesday, December 23, 2009 8:15 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Glenn Elwell, P.E. follows:

Case Number: INT-G-09-03
Name: Glenn Elwell, P.E.
Address: 3596 N 1825 E
City: Buhl
State: Idaho
Zip: 83316
Daytime Telephone: 208 316 2554
Contact E-Mail: radiant@cableone.net
Name of Utility Company: Intermountain Gas Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

The PUC should emphatically deny this request for the following reasons:

1. Intermountain Gas (IG) has been collecting revenue from snow melt systems in the Wood River Valley for nearly 30 years. These revenues should be used to upgrade the pipeline, not be diverted to new out-of-state owners. In the past 20 years I personally have designed and installed thousands of square feet of snowmelt in residential and commercial applications. In all major installations I would notify IG of the demand and inquire as to their ability to deliver, as my clients would not have accepted, nor would I have recommended, a 'here today - gone tomorrow' system. I was always assured that capacity was available and that the Company would be upgrading the line in the near future to continue availability.
2. In spite of public perception that snowmelt is a rich persons luxury, most snowmelt systems are essential to the accessibility and safety of the property, and as such are not interruptable. County and City zoning departments have made major building decisions based on the availability of uninterrupted snowmelt capability. Forcing Owners to interruptable status will result in numerous personal injuries or death (just ask Sun Valley Company), property and vehicle damage. Will IG be responsible for the resulting lawsuits?
3. If IG asserts that it can no longer supply sufficient natural gas to the Wood River Valley, the State should declare a complete moratorium on new gas connections the Valley, as the Dept. of Water Resources would do if there was a shortage of water. Natural gas powered snowmelt systems have become an integrated part of the Wood River Valley, just as in all major destination ski resorts. Intermountain Gas' attempt to hide their lack of planning should be summarily denied.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 67.61.98.5
