

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 8/23/06

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comm.
S H

RECEIVED

2006 AUG 23 AM 8:13

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 20, 2006

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

Case No. SPL-W-06-1

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

We recently received a letter from the Spirit Lake East Water Company of Spokane Valley, Washington who supplies water to our residence.

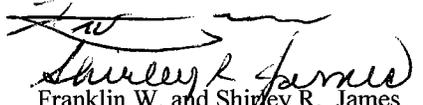
This letter covered the proposed overall increase water rate of \$24.00 for the first 9,000 gallons of water used per month and then \$.20 for every 100 gallons used thereafter per month. Also they would increase the first time connection fee from \$1,200.00 to \$2,500.00 for new services that are not currently connected to the Company's system.

We feel a rate increase is justified; however, we would like to propose that you leave the water rate as \$12.00 for the first 9,000 gallons of water used, but increase to \$.30 for every 100 gallons used thereafter per month. This way, our residents living on fixed incomes will not be impacted much. And people using a lot of water will be inclined to reduce the amount they use.

We do feel, however, that the first time connection fee is unusually high and really does not need to be that high. Spirit Lake East Water Company just raised this fee a short time ago; why double the fee again? So many people building a home for the first time are already hard pressed to gather all the funds they require.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to this proposed rate increase.

Sincerely,


Franklin W. and Shirley R. James
822 Sky Hawk Drive
Spirit Lake, ID 83869
(208) 623-3587

cc: Spirit Lake East Water Company
15807 E. Indiana Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 8/23/06

✓ To Adv.

✓ To Commes.
S H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2006 6:49 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, August 22, 2006
5:49:27 PM

Case: SPL-W--06-1
Name: Ronald Bart
Street Address: P.O. Box 537
City: Athol
State: ID
ZIP: 83801
Home Telephone: 208-623-4570
E-Mail: ron.bart@hughes.net
Company: Spirit Lake East Water Co.
mailing_list_yes_no: yes
Comment_description: This user concurs with Company's desire to increase rates.

The submitted application provides adequate justification for the requested monthly rate increase and connection fee increase.

This user does not concur with the amount requested.

In short, request is too small and, while allowing Company to pay off accumulated debt to parent company, Hanson Industries, does not set aside any funds for capital improvement in quality monitoring, backflow prevention (currently non-existent), fire tanker refill stations (also currently non-existent), or replacement of aging equipment. Strategic planning guides, available from the EPA, provide estimated useful lives of storage tanks at 30-60 years. We are half-way to the midpoint. Pumps are estimated at 10-15 years. I don't know the age of the booster pumps, but the main well pump is only 2 years old having failed in 2004. Distribution pipes are estimated at 30-45 years. We are halfway to the midpoint. Meters are estimated at 10-15 years. Many existing meters exceed that.

Failure to impound funds for capital improvement is short sighted and conflicts with Company's stated rationale for the rate increase in their notice to system users, to wit "... so that it (the Company) can provide safe, reliable, and adequate service." Such short sightedness will only lead to more sustained outages such as the one in October, 2004 lasting over 10 days.

Connection fees should be increased to \$4000 each while monthly fees should be quadrupled to \$48/month for the first 9000 gallons and \$0.40/100 gallons thereafter.

In return for these higher rates, users request Company install mechanical backflow prevention on each service connection; install fire tanker refill stations at strategic locations throughout the two homeowners associations where suitable water main sizes permit; provide regular and timely reports of water quality testing, and provide at least annual fiscal reports on the status of the capital improvement impound funds and plans for capital improvements and replacements.

Transaction ID: 8221749.27
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 69.19.14.28
User Hostname: 69.19.14.28