

✓ Ken Ack
sent 8/29/06

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis.
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RECEIVED

RALPH E. SHRIGLEY
32734 N. Hayden Avenue
Spirit Lake, ID 83869
(208) 623-2671

2006 AUG 25 AM 8: 23

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 23, 2006

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Spirit Lake East
Water Company, Inc.
Case No. SPL-W-06-1

Dear Commission:

I am a customer of Spirit Lake East Water Company, Inc. (SLEWCO), residing in the Spirit Lake East development, and am writing to provide comments relating to referenced Application dated August 14, 2006. I have no objection to the requested increase in water rates or hookup charges. I hope that SLEWCO's change in financial strategy from being operated to provide tax benefits to its parent corporation to becoming a profitable entity signals an increase in interest in SLEWCO's operations and its future.

In recent years there has been a lack of interest on the part of SLEWCO in making prudent, timely investment in equipment to such a degree that it lost DEQ approval of the system. Although SLEWCO expends little or no effort in informing its customers of these important developments, these deficiencies have apparently been resolved to the satisfaction of DEQ.

I would also note that written requests from the Spirit Lake Homeowners' Association to SLEWCO, asking that a single hydrant be installed near SLEWCO facilities, at the expense of the Homeowners' Association, have gone unanswered. Fire trucks responding with tenders to calls in Spirit Lake East may face a round trip of more than eight miles to refill. Granting the Homeowners' request, at no cost to SLEWCO, would cut this distance in half. This lack of interest and responsiveness to its customers has, unfortunately, become the norm in recent times.

Regarding the request to increase hookup fees for new connections, I believe the fees should be set at a level sufficient to provide for installation of a cross connection control device at the time new service is established. This device should be sufficient to provide unimpeded one-inch flow to the service line. Taking this step at the time of installation would save new customers from adding such devices at a later time, incurring

considerable additional expense. It would also reduce the administrative burden on SLEWCO, which must manage a related program.

My major concern with subject application is that it reflects a glaring deficiency adversely affecting SLEWCO's customers whose health, wealth and safety depend on the sustainability of this company. The lack of any sort of sinking fund, capital reserve account, or even any mention of a plan for future replacement of installed mains and distribution lines is a major deficiency. Portions of the installed mains and distribution system are approaching thirty years of age. PVC lines, such as used in Spirit Lake East and Treeport, have an estimated useful life of 30-40 years according to some sources and up to 60 years depending on other sources. Several variables can impact their useful life, such as method of bedding lines when installed, and soil types.

I respectfully request that the Public Utilities Commission require SLEWCO to develop plans and financial strategies that will assure the sustainability of a healthful water supply for the residents of Spirit Lake East and Treeport. SLEWCO should commit to completion of this planning effort, within a timeframe to be established by the PUC, before approval of the referenced application for rate increase is granted.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph S. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent vertical stroke at the end.

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

✓ Gen. Ack
sent 8/28/06

✓ To A.W.

✓ To Commus
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Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Monday, August 28, 2006 1:54 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Monday, August 28, 2006
12:53:30 PM

Case: SPL-W-06-1
Name: Julie Garrett
Street Address: 32389 N Tahoe Dr
City: Spirit Lake
State: ID
ZIP: 83869
Home Telephone: 208-623-6297
E-Mail: troublekitties@netzero.com
Company: Spirit Lake East Water Company
mailing_list_yes no: yes

Comment_description: Given receipt of notification from the Spirit Lake East Water Company of their intent to request a rate increase of 100% I am concerned since the water service provided by said water company is unreliable at best, and dangerous at worst. To suggest that, as a consumer, I should double the amount of money paid to this utility to receive the same unreliable service with potentially harmful drinking water is unbelievable. The most recent notification I received indicates that this water system has been disapproved by DEQ. I have received no notification that DEQ has since approved this system or that necessary repairs or improvements have been made. Furthermore, each time (of which there have been many) there is potential contamination this water company does not notify consumers until several days later. Usually the notice is dated the same date or the next date then is mailed (via USPS) with a post mark of the second or third day, then received at my home 3 to 4 days after the incident, assuming no weekends or holidays are considered. This is dangerous to my family which includes a small child and a pregnant woman. We can no longer drink our water out of fear that it is contaminated. How can anyone suggest raising our rates when the service is substandard and the water quality and safety is constantly in question? Do I need to remind anyone that we went without water (of any standard) for more than a week just less than two years ago? How was I to flush the toilet FOR A WEEK? Is this not also a health hazard? During this particular outage residents were not informed of ANYTHING. I didn't know when water would be available; I didn't know if the water coming out of my faucet was drinkable. This summer, the water pressure has been sporadic at best; and again, I wonder how many times there has been potential contamination without notification. Further, this water system is located in Spirit Lake, Idaho. Not Spokane, Washington. not Boise, Idaho. When considering meetings for this utility, please remember where the residents using the water are located.

Transaction ID: 8281253.30
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 164.165.141.68
User Hostname: 164.165.141.68