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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

January 5, 2007

Jean Jewell
Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, Idaho, 83720-0074

RE: Case # SPL-W-06-1

Dear Ms. Jewell,

Attached is a petition circulated (with near fifty signatures)in the Spirit Lake East and Treeport Subdivisions during the holiday season. It is a request for a formal hearing or another workshop with a better notification of the residents served by Spirit Lake Water Company. It includes some of the concerns we, as customers, have regarding the service and maintenance of our water system by SLWater Company over the past years.

We feel more signatures could be gotten if we allowed ourselves more time. However, we are concerned if we wait another week or so it would be too late for the commissioners to consider our concerns before their decision is made.

As you can see, several signatures are on different sheets. This was due to the fact we gave copies of the petition to residents in different parts of the community. To save on postage we consolidated the signatures under one cover sheet.

It is with a great sense of urgency that we appeal to the PUC and are afforded a formal hearing prior to any decision by the Commission. The personal address of community residents to the Commission will help them to understand the need for the suggested upgrades by both the Idaho DEQ and the engineering firm of Welsh Comer. We hope this petition will help the commissioners to know we, as a community, are concerned about the state of our water system. We hope they will place certain demands on SL Water Company to provide an adequate generator, fix the leaks in the system, keep the reservoir full and provide upgrades to meet demand if or when they allow an increase in our rates.

Sincerely,

Bill Strane on behalf of the
Customers of SL Water Company

CERTIFIED MAIL

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UTILITIES COMMISSION

Petition to PUC Commission

To: Jean Jewell
Secretary of the Commission
RE: Water Rate Increase Request by
Spirit Lake East Water Company
Ref: Case # SPL-W-06-1

Please know that all signatures contained herein are residents of Spirit Lake East and Treeport subdivisions and are consumers of Spirit Lake East Water Company. This petition is designed to address both the current request for a rate increase by Spirit Lake East Water Company and complaints regarding the management and maintenance of the current water system as well as issues pertaining to past years.

Our issues and complaints are as follows:

1. SLE Water has not reported on water outages to the PUC or DEQ as is required by State regulatory standards. E-coli is a definite danger to consumers when the pressure drops below 20 psi and requires that residents be notified of the danger. This has not always happened and when it did, the notice was too late to be of help. During this past weekend, black particles were visible in the water following the outage , creating potential hazards to residents.
2. SLE Water has owned this system for over 30 years and has only provided a minimal amount of maintenance. They have not provided upgrades as needed for the increased number of homes it serves. It was not until a major outage in 2004 that DEQ found numerous issues with the system which did not meet standards. Since that time, SLE Water has been required to make major repairs at considerable cost. If the system had been properly managed and upgraded this cost would not have been as great and they would not need an increase to recoup their loss. Residents are sitting on a virtual time bomb of possible hazardous material in our water lines due to breaks in a poorly maintained system.
3. SLE Water has not provided sufficient back-up equipment in order to ensure potable water is available during and after all power outages. The present generator has not functioned during our power outages as evidenced during the weekend of December 15, 2006. The community was without water for nearly two days. In July 1998, the community was without water for three days. Again, in October 2004 the system was without water for 10 days while SLE Water searched the nation for a pump to replace the failed one. There have been several other instances which lasted for hours rather than days.
4. SLE Water has been subsidized by a parent company, Hansen Industries.
   If it no longer enjoys any subsidies from the parent company, we as consumers want a specific plan on how SLE Water is going to maintain and upgrade our system prior to a rate increase.
5. There was less than 6' of water in the reservoir when our past outage occurred. It drained so quickly we feel there must be leakages in the system. We as consumers deserve a full disclosure of the pumping rates in conjunction with leakage rates. This is vital to knowing if lines need replacing or repair.
6. It is our understanding Hansen Industries has hired an engineer from Welsh Comer Engineering. This firm performed a study of the system for needed upgrades and repairs.

They also hired an attorney from the Idaho Attorney General's office which was monitoring the progress of SLE Water to meet the demands of DEQ. If this is true, the consumers are at a distinct disadvantage as SLE Water would have inside information not available to us petitioners. As a relatively small group appealing to a governmental agency, we do not have access to major legal support systems. We can only wish for fairness on what other water systems are provided for in the State of Idaho.

7. SLE Water has been showing a loss in its annual reports. We would request the PUC auditors review Hansen Industries employee time spent doing SLE Water tasks as opposed to Hansen Industry tasks. Also, can a rate increase be justified to maintain existing equipment verses implementing new equipment in order to upgrade the system?

We as consumers of the SLE Water Company specifically request either a formal hearing or another workshop or both in order for the Commission to hear our concerns, as they are many. If a hearing is granted we understand the Commission uses the newspapers to notify the consumers of the meeting. This has not been successful in the past so we are requesting an extra effort be made to contact customers of SLE Water of the meeting.

Printed Name	Signature	Address
RALPH E. SHARKELEY	Ralph E. Sharkeley	32734 N. Hayden DR SPIRIT LAKE, ID 83869
JACK L. KAMIN	Jack L Kamin	30636 ST JOE DR S.L. ID. 83869
Marian D. Kamin	Marian Kamin	✓ ✓ ✓
Tony Thornton	Tony Thornton	30971 N. Hayden Dr. Spirit Lake, ID 83869
Justin P Millette	Justin P Millette	31011 N Spirit DR. Spirit Lake ID 83869
Chrystal Millette	Chrystal Millette	31011 N. Spirit Dr
Janet L Lambert	Janet L. Lambert	30818 N. St. Joe Dr.
Jeff Lambert	Jeff L Lambert	30818 N St Joe Dr.
Sue Niegel	Sue Niegel	34204 N. St. Joe Dr.
Ernie Niegel	ERNIE NIEGEL	34204 N ST Joe Dr
Carla Strane	Carla A Strane	31076 N Spirit DR
W F Strane	William F Strane	31076 N. Spirit DR
Laurie Sullivan	LAURIE SULLIVAN	31562 Spirit Dr.
Gled Sullivan	[illegible]	31562 SPIRIT DR.

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Printed Name	Signature	Address
Duplicate ~~Lee Partyka~~		~~34754 N St Joe Dr lot 126~~
Duplicate ~~Michael MARZIO~~	Michael J Marzio	~~34446 N. St Joe Dr lot 128~~
DANIEL W. Schilling	Daniel W. Schilling	LOT 90 31997 N. Kelso
Barb Schilling	Barbara J. Schilling	LOT 90 31997 N Kelso
KAREN SMART	Karen Smart	Lot 192 35407 N Hayden Dr
Sue Fox	Sue Fox	tract 261
Doug KEINER	Doug Keiner	LOT 108
Rob STRAND	Rob Strand	LOT 109
Randy Fox		Tract 117
L. Scott Fox	L. Scott Fox	Lot 213
GAYLORD THOMPSON	Gaylord Thompson	tract 82
Kris Smith	Kris Smith	16283 N CdA Dr

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Printed Name	Signature	Address
Lee Partyka		34754 N ST Joe Dr lot 126
Michael MARZIO	Michael J Marzio	34416 N. ST Joe Dr lot 124
Roy NIEGEL	Roy J. Niegel	34036 N ST Joe Dr LOT 101
ELEANOR NIEGEL	Eleanor Niegel	34036 N ST Joe Dr Lot 101
JOE KRONENBERG	Joe Kronenberg	31991 N. SPIRIT DR. LOT 100
Tyla Kronenberg	Tyla Kronenberg	31991 N. Spirit Dr.
Denise Kreider	Denise Kreider	32000 N. Spirit Dr. "Lot 99"
JOE AMENT	J W Ament	31527 N SPIRIT DR LOT 92

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Printed Name	Signature	Address
DON MILLER	[illegible]	15495 W COEUR D ALENE DR.
Jonathan Zucker	[illegible]	15765 W. CDA Dr.
Randy Malloy	[illegible]	34065 N Hayden
MARK SMITH	[illegible]	16283 CD'A DRIVE

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Printed Name	Signature	Address
GARY DOUGLAS	Gary Douglas	9-0-34 WEST LIBERTY DR
Mitch Douglas	[illegible]	9034 West liberty Dr
Becky Douglas	Becky Douglas	9034 WEST LIBERTY DR.

Petition to PUC Commission cont.

Printed Name	Signature	Address
John Hill	John Hill	30637 St Soc Pr Spirit Lake Lot 56
Nancy Hill	Nancy Hill	"
William Mueller	William Mueller	21116 N Hayden Dr Spirit Lake, Id
Rhonda Mueller	Rhonda Mueller	21116 N Hayden Dr Spirit Lake

Petition to PUC Commission cont.

Printed Name	Signature	Address
JANICE YOUNG	Janice Young	32072N Newman Dr.
ROBERT YOUNG	Robert Young	32072N NEWMAN DR

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Duplicates

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~~Dupes~~ Lee Partyka	[signature]	34754 N ST Joe Dr lot 126
~~Dupes~~ Michael MARZIO	[signature]	34416 N. ST Joe Dr lot 124
Ed & Jane Pierce	[signature]	186 SEY HAWK DR.
Benson Olivieri Bent Suzie Olivieri	Benson Olivieri	515 Eagle Dr.
RUDY LAWICKA	[signature]	695 EAGLE DRIVE
BRENDA Ketcherside	Brenda Ketcherside	695 EAGLE DRIVE