

**LOT 111**

RECEIVED

33588 North West Kelso Drive  
Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869  
Tel. (208) 623-3244

2013 MAY 10 AM 8:40

May 7, 2013

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

**RE: CASE NO. SPL W-13-01**

Dear Sir or Madam:

I reviewed the application of the Spirit Lake East Water Company and attendant letter of April 9, 2013.

I am in agreement with the request to increase the fee for residential water use to \$24.75 per month from the present \$12.50, I am not in agreement with the Monthly allegation of 9000 Gallons.

The Company's current allotment of 9000 gallons per month (1203 Cubic Feet) should be increased to 1500 cubic feet per month and subsequent usage reported in Cubic Feet not Gallons. The Company has made the point that the meters record in Cubic Feet and not in Gallons. Therefore it makes little or no sense to a person attempting to monitor their usage in Gallons if the meter reads in Cubic Feet and the Billing therefore is in Gallons. The conversion while simplistic to an Engineer makes little use to the average household. A subsequent increase for overage would approximate \$.15 for 15 Cubic Feet.

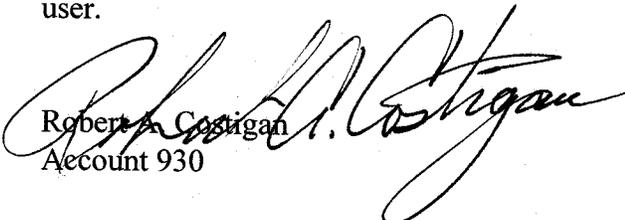
The present system of meter reading is potentially available in most cases from April through October, depending on the weather and current snowfall. This year although my meter is located well above the roadway, it would have been difficult if not impossible to read the meter from November to April. Snow removal and snowfall would prevent all but the most vigorous attempts to uncover the meter.

If an accurate account of usage is to be made the readings of the meters must be conducted in a **timely** and **routine** manner if an accurate portrayal of usage is to be valid, based on the tri-monthly system in present use. The use of a contemplated averaging system by the Company to cover the Spring to Fall usage period is inconsistent with timely reading of the meters.

I participated in the City of Spokane's efforts to install Water Meter's accessible to drive by remote reading in the 1980's so I appreciate the expense of such an effort in the **Spirit Lake East Plat**. Financial recovery would be difficult on a potential 313 unit basis, not all of which is occupied at present. One possibility would be to raise the current installation and connection fee not only to cover the cost of connection, but to provide for an upgraded Water Meter. While the Company Representative has mentioned the possible installation of new meters, the current pricing is inadequate for this purpose and to my knowledge is not discussed in this application. In so far as advanced technology is readily available from Itron located in Liberty Lake, Washington.

With respect to my Household, the current meter although it reads in Cubic Feet has not operative. The Meter Reader broke the connecting leads while attempting to read the meter. As such the meter has been inoperative since October 2012.

I am pleased to be able to participate in the Application process although not an Internet user.

  
Robert A. Costigan  
Account 930

cc: Spirit Lake East Water Company