

✓ Sen. Ack
sent 3/1

✓ T. A.V.

✓ To Comm
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UWI-W-04-4

RECEIVED
FILED



2005 MAR -1 AM 8:28

February 27, 2005
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

RE: United Water's Requested Rate Increase

I was appalled to learn of the proposed rate increase by United Water Idaho. I feel the 22.35% increase is outrageous! I feel sorry for low and fixed income families when they are at the mercy of an overseas company trying to gouge them. I would like to offer the following observations:

- The requested increase far exceeds the rate of inflation over the past four years.
- I feel that the compensation and benefit plans being paid to United Water's Union employees are out of line and don't compare to the compensation packages provided to other tradesmen in the valley. I feel that Unions, in general, create economic pressures that result in higher than necessary inflation and result in significant wage gaps between the average Idaho worker and union employees. What incentive does United Water have during Union negotiations to keep wages down when they can just pass them onto the PUC as operating costs? For example, why does United Water hire Union employees to monitor construction activities at probably \$30.00 per hour, plus benefits, when a licensed Engineer is responsible for the design of the system? Recently, the Idaho House of Representatives voted in favor of a Bill that took design approval authority away from IDEQ and recognized that the Design Professional should have ultimate authority for the work for they are licensed and tasked to protect the Public's life and safety. However, I believe United Water hires unlicensed Union individuals to monitor their construction activities knowing that they can pass the costs onto the ratepayers. How self-serving!
- United Water has stated "the company's investments in water facilities ... have increased". However, they fail to mention that in excess of 10,000 homes were added to Ada County last year. Being that developers are required to provide and install the water supply systems as part of the construction, United Water gets to reap the benefits. One would think that with the added infrastructure and new customer base United Water should be able to operate under their existing rate structure. As a United Water ratepayer, I request that you look at the levied rates by other water

companies in the area. In particular, please examine the rates being charged by Eagle Water Company to assess if United Water's rates are reasonable. I believe Eagle Water Company runs a lean shop and provides water at reasonable rates to its customers. I also believe they use MTI Engineering to review their construction drawings and to provide construction oversight to comply with the regulatory requirements and to save costs. What an ingenious concept???

As a resident of Boise City, I do not have another option for a potable water source – short of bottled water. I feel this rate increase is unreasonable, especially when summer rates are added for irrigation water. Those of us that do not have pressurized irrigation systems are getting screwed!

One cannot help but feel that the PUC has allowed United Water Company to develop into an unchecked entity that can set their own operating protocol and expect their ratepayers to pick up the tab. Unfortunately, United Water has probably developed into such of a formidable opponent, with their lawyers and accountants, I suspect that PUC will just roll over and approve all, if not most of the increase.



John Swartz
11035 West Edgehill Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709

✓ Ben Arke
sent 3/1/05

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UWI-W-04-4

2005 FEB 23 ~~PM~~ 8:15 2005

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Idaho Public Utilies Commission :

I would like to make our comment about the United Water Idaho Inc.
Renewable Resource Initiative.

We feel that the increase of the rate every May thru Sept. should
take care of the cost for the year. It seemes that every year
someone sayes that it has been years since they had a increase
in the bill. We try not to use a lot of water by holding out
in watering the yard. So by the middle of summer ~~our~~^{our} yard lookes
real bad. All dried up.

We pay for the water to two companys, the water company and the
bench sewer company.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

William and Diane Hughes
4112 St. Andrews Dr.
Boise, Id. 83705

✓ Gen Ack
sent 3/1/05

✓ To AV

✓ To Comm
; H

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 9:07 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Monday, February 28, 2005
9:07:22 PM

Case: UWI-W-04-4
Name: Scott McDougall
Street_Address: 2970 Chinkapin
City: Boise
State: ID
ZIP: 83709
Home_Telephone: 208-362-0807
E-Mail: cs2mscott@pobox.com
Company: United Water

mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: I note in the letter I received from United Water that "...an increase in revenue is necessary to support these investments...".
"Investments" are made to provide a return. If these are in fact investments, let the company get a loan to make the investment, and pay it off with the returns.

In particular, I recall the last request from this company. An increase was needed for Information Technology. IT is a support function that makes all other operations faster and more efficient, i.e., it increases productivity and lowers costs. It should never result in a higher cost structure. If it does, it's redundant and unnecessary.

Thank you.

Transaction ID: 2282107.22
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 12.72.252.47
User Hostname: 12.72.252.47

✓ Gen Ack
sent 3/1/05

✓ T. Commes
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UWI-W-04-4

Jean Jewell

From: Front
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2005 8:37 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Cc: CJ Cooper
Subject: FW: Complaint acknowledgement

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2005 8:20 AM
To: Front; Beverly Barker; Ed Howell; Tonya Clark
Subject: Complaint acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, March 01, 2005
8:19:59 AM

Name: Kelly R Davis
Street Address: 9054 Maple Hill Dr
City: Boise
State: ID
ZIP: 83709
Home Telephone: 208-377-9763
Work Telephone:
E-Mail: krdav@homeinternet.net
Home Business: Home
Business Name:
Business Street Address:
Business Phone:
Complaint Company: United Water
Local Provider:
Contacted utility: No

Complaint description: Here we go again. When will the 20%+ rate increases ever end? How can new users impact existing customers every years. This argument given by the water company is just another way of taking advantage of community growth with already high prices. Increased cost for expansion should be only allowed to new connections. The second issue that continues to make absolutly no sense is the doubling of rates in the summer. Just balance out the appropriate rate on a annual basis. The "Summer Gouge" is outrageous and must stop.

Transaction ID: 31819.59
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/cons>
User Address: 199.67.138.215
User Hostname: 199.67.138.215

✓ Jim Ack
sent 2/28/05

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commu
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Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Monday, February 28, 2005 9:42 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Monday, February 28, 2005
9:41:33 AM

Case: unknown *UWI-W-04-4*
Name: Joe Newton
Street Address: 749 Warm Springs Avenue
City: Boise
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83712

Home Telephone: 345-0225
E-Mail: jboisejoe@aol.com
Company: United Water

mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: The information letter sent to me by United Water states the typical average yearly water bill for residential users is \$323. My small residence has practically no outside water usage whatsoever and my average bill is more than they specify as typical. Also, why are residential customers assessed with the highest increase? I feel this typical billing is grossly understated. They do not mention the 25% surcharge for summer usage either which is already in place. Since the company is owned by an out of state corporation (ie. profits do not remain here), severe scrutiny of the request should be made before granting ANY increase. Social Security payments to me are barely enough to get by on and it's my only source of income.

Transaction ID: 228941.33
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 64.12.116.203
User Hostname: 64.12.116.203

*Response
sent by Gene*

*To Commms
? H*

UWI-W-04-4

Jean Jewell

From: secretary
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 7:54 PM
To: Barb Barrows; Ed Howell; Janet Bahora; Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: utility increase

From: TCripe5844@aol.com[SMTP:TCRIPE5844@AOL.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2005 7:53:48 PM
To: secretary
Subject: utility increase
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Hi, I am wondering if our PUC knows how to just say NO. It seems everytime you are asked an increase is granted. United water has now asked for an outrageous increase. They already increase cost of water during the summer months.
Bad enough that they sold the company to the French--!Im sure we all knew they would increase the cost---When does it stop? Sincerelly T. Cripe

✓ Gen. Ack sent
2/22/05

✓ To Comments
7/14

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2005 1:25 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Monday, February 21, 2005
1:24:59 PM

Case: *UWI-W-04-4*
Name: Patrick Hally
Street Address: 11278 W. Peconic Dr.
City: Boise
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83709

Home Telephone: 362-9156
E-Mail: pjhally@att.net
Company: United Water

mailing_list_yes_no: no
Comment_description: Since United Water purchased South County Water, our rates increased considerably. United Water notified us they are requesting a 22.35% rate increase! This seems unreasonable. We hate to see them get any increase. We ask that you deny their request.

Transaction ID: 2211324.59
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 12.72.172.211
User Hostname: 12.72.172.211

✓ Gen Ack sent 2/22/05 ✓ To A.V. ✓ To Commms
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Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Saturday, February 19, 2005 12:52 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Saturday, February 19, 2005
12:51:44 PM

Case: proposed water rate increase - *UWI-W-04-4*

Name: john coolidge
Street_Address: 11350 Bridgetower Dr.
City: Boise
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83709
Home_Telephone: 208 376-2962
E-Mail: jectoo@earthlink.net

Company:
mailing_list_yes_no: yes

Comment_description: We received notice of a request for a rate increaase for our water. It states that the average annual residential bill is between \$323 and \$395. Users with that small a bill must live in very very small houses on very very small lots. Our house is only 1600 square feet with about a 5000 square foot lawn.our bills over the past

four years have been \$404.69;\$549.44;\$564.33 and \$585.81, respectively.

A 22.55% increase will make it about \$718 --an awful lot of money for a retired couple on a fixed income.

I know nothing of the balance sheet of United Water. I no nothing of their profits.

I hope however that you will examine their operation thoroughly and look for means of limiting if not eliminating the need for this increase.

The squeeze of taxes and utility rates is becoming serious.

Thank you
John Coolidge

Transaction ID: 2191251.44
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>
User Address: 63.187.40.62
User Hostname: 63.187.40.62

✓ Gen Ack
sent 2/18/05

✓ To Commis
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Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 3:20 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, February 17, 2005
3:20:28 PM

Case: unknown-united water rate increase -UWI-W-04-4

Name: Bill and Cheryl Racz
Street Address: 443 S Hemmingway Ave
City: Boise
State: Idaho
ZIP: 83709

Home Telephone: 208-378-8208

E-Mail: wdracz@aol.com

Company: United Water

mailing_list_yes_no: no

Comment_description: We also own properties and pay the water bills at 3857 Constitution Way Boise and at 6070-72 Dorian Court, Boise as well as the house address listed in form. Since the last HUGE increase granted to United Water, income rates have not kept pace in any way. Water is essential to life, but so is housing, food etc. This increase would be extremely unfair until such time as local income kept up with these continual increases requested from the different utilities. Our tenants are low income and cannot afford to make up for the increase in the rent that would be necessary if water rates increase. Please vote NO on this proposed increase. Thank you

Transaction ID: 2171520.28

Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>

User Address: 64.12.116.203

User Hostname: 64.12.116.203

✓ Sen. Ack sent 2/18/05 *✓ To Commms ?H*

Jean Jewell

From: Front
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2005 8:10 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Complaint acknowledgement

UWI-W-04-4

-----Original Message-----

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2005 5:28 PM
To: Front; Beverly Barker; Ed Howell; Tonya Clark
Subject: Complaint acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Thursday, February 17, 2005
5:28:01 PM

Name: Frank E. Richardson
Street_Address: 4064 Rushmore Ave.
City: Boise
State: ID
ZIP: 83709
Home_Telephone: 208-362-5644
Work_Telephone:
E-Mail: frerich2003@yahoo.com
Home_Business: Home
Business_Name:
Business_Street_Address:
Business_Phone:
Complaint_Company: United Water Co
Local_Provider:
Contacted_utility: No

Complaint_description: I have received a notice that United Water of Idaho, Inc. has filed with you a request of increase rates 21.49% Since they took over our South County Water Co. my rates have increased over 80% in just 4 years. They hook up large subdivision out here on the back of current water users. Then when a home is bouth and they start paying a water bill the rates do not go down for us, but just used to increase their profits for the shareholders, who are mostly foreign investors...remember they are owned by a foreign country.

Our money goes out of Idaho never to be seen again. It is a ridiculous request to have such a high rate increase. Let the tens of thousands of new customers get on board, then look at it two years from now.

Transaction ID: 2171728.1
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/cons>
User Address: 24.116.140.76
User Hostname: 24.116.140.76