

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. UWI-W-04-4

February 4, 2005

Contact: Gene Fadness (208) 334-0339

Website: www.puc.state.id.us

United Water considers low-income assistance program

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will conduct a workshop to evaluate the need for, scope and design of a proposed low-income customer assistance program for United Water.

The company is proposing the program in light of its request for 21.46 percent average increase in rates.

The workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m., at the commission's hearing room at 472 W. Washington St. in Boise.

The workshop will focus only on the need for a low-income assistance program, not on the rate increase request. An evidentiary hearing on the broader issue of United Water's rate request is scheduled for May 18-20 in the commission hearing room. The commission is also planning other workshops and/or hearings before the evidentiary hearing.

United Water, which provides water to 75,400 customers in Ada and Canyon counties, wants to increase revenues by nearly \$6.8 million to recover the cost of capital improvements and to meet the demands of a growing customer base.

--END--