

In response to United Water Idaho seeks 19.9% rate hike -
Thurs. August 4, 2011.

RECEIVED
2011 AUG 15 PM 3:42
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

For years we have been told to conserve water. We water at night, take shorter showers, run our dish washer less. Now because, we use less and have more water, the consumer is to be punished by United Water, by asking us for a 20% rate hike.

One mile away, Capitol Water has a set fee payment for residents. Although Nampa Irrigation ditch runs through our area it cannot be used for fear of receiving large fines.

Many of us are on a fixed income and our water bill seriously depleats that each month.

We ask that the Utility Commission not only decline United Waters request, but seriously looks into fixed rates for all Boise Valley Water users.

<u>Judy Swindell</u>	7940 CRESTWOOD DR.
<u>Sharon McDonough</u>	8020 Crestwood dr.
<u>Paul M. McDonough</u>	8020 CRESTWOOD DR.
<u>Geo Ann Murphy</u>	8010 Crestwood Dr
<u>Angela Murphy</u>	8010 Crestwood dr.
<u>Joseph A Eggle</u>	8015 Crestwood Dr.
<u>Charlotte Eggle</u>	8015 Crestwood Drive
<u>S H B</u>	7945 Crestwood Drive
<u>SaRette Oliver</u>	7840 Crestwood Drive
<u>Ron & Sandy Woodman</u>	7930 Crestwood

ESS & Legals

AHOSSTATESMAN.COM/BUSINESSNEWS

STOCKS B2 • DILBERT B2 • COMMODITIES

RECEIVED

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 2011 • SECTION

DOW	11896.44	NASDAQ	2693.07	S&P 500	1260.34	6-MONTH BILLS	0.89%	3-MONTH BONDS	3.87%	GOLD	\$1,663.40	EURO	\$1.4317	CRUDE	\$91
▲	+29.82	▲	+23.83	▲	+6.29	▲	-0.04	▲	-0.05	▲	+21.50	▲	+0.0116	▲	-1.5

United Water Idaho seeks 19.9 percent rate hike

Residential customers would pay about \$5.82 a month more, the company says.

BY BILL ROBERTS
broberts@idahostatesman.com
© 2011 Idaho Statesman

Declining water usage and costs for infrastructure are contributing to United Water Idaho's request, which could cost customers about 19 cents a day.

United Water estimates the increase, if approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, would raise about \$76 million a year and boost annual rev-

enues from \$38 million to almost \$46 million. Any rate change would take effect in March 2012.

Commercial rates would increase 19.1 percent.

The company spent more than \$6.5 million in improving infrastructure since its last increase in 2009. One project, running a larger water line down Hill Road from Harrison Boulevard to 36th Street to

boost water pressure north of Hill Road around 36th Street is costing about \$2 million and is scheduled to be completed by fall, said Mark Snider, company spokesman.

The proposed increase also is a product of falling consumption. Water usage has dropped by 23 percent from 2003. Part of the drop reflects slowed growth in the residential market.

A cooler than usual spring also meant many customers delayed turning on their sprinkler systems, Snider said.

Conservation and more

water-efficient appliances are playing a role, Snider said.

"Almost three-quarters of our revenues are variable based on water usage, despite the majority of our costs for operating the water system being fixed costs," said Greg Wyatt, United Water Idaho vice president and general manager.

United Water Idaho serves about 240,000 people in the Boise area.

Bill Roberts: 377-6466

READ THE RATE PLAN
idahostatesman.com

DON'T PUNISH US

Jean Jewell

From: s.weissone@yahoo.com
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2011 10:36 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Steve Weiss follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Steve Weiss
Address:
City: Boise
State: ID
Zip:
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: s.weissone@yahoo.com
Name of Utility Company: United Water
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I want my opinion to be listed among those which oppose the requested rate increase for United Water.

I have read their proposal, and find it to be lacking in credible argument. The rate of return on investment the company is currently reporting is larger than any other options available to share holders in this economy. United Water should be happy with their nearly 6% return on investment. Banks are not getting that much on mortgage investment, and United Water's risk is substantially lower.

The additional work on line installation along Hill Road is the cost of doing business, and being allowed to use public domain for their water delivery system w/o any charge by the public. If United water would prefer, the City and County could ask for an offset fee to allow United water to continue to keep their supply structure under public property. And if this fee were to be initiated, it should come with a restriction; the fee will not be considered in any rate increases in any form.

The amount of monthly expenses that current customers pay is high enough at this time. Elderly, and young families alike, are taxed in some cases beyond their ability to pay. So, the usage of water is reduced, yards are allowed to dry-up, fruit trees are allowed to die, and then the families are penalized for reducing their water consumption. This is the most ridiculous statement in the United Water proposal for rate increase.

If the Idaho Public Utilities Commission should decide to allow this rate increase to go through, or even a smaller variation, I believe serious questions will arise regarding just who's interest the Commission is charged to protect.

I understand that Utilities are in business to make money, but as I said above, they should be happy with the rate of return on investment in this economy, and any additional amount would be considered 'gouging' and therefore not allowed to proceed.

I would like to thank the Commission for allowing the customers of United Water this opportunity to respond to the requested rate increase.

Steve M. Weiss

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 164.165.237.19

Jean Jewell

From: rubysmith2008@gmail
Sent: Tuesday, August 16, 2011 8:59 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Ruby Smith follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Ruby Smith
Address:
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83709
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: rubysmith2008@gmail
Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I am against any rate increase for United Water Idaho. I feel the older subdivisions for many years have been subsidizing the so called infrastructure improvements and other reasons given for these rate increases. I live in an older subdivision, and do not have access to the pressurized irrigation due to the ignorance of the developer and would have gladly paid for the irrigation to have been extended to our subdivision as it available to houses just a short distance away and they let the water just run down the gutter---which makes me sick. I also, have tried to gain access to this water without any results. In the media, they stated part of the increase was due to less water being used -- well many of the newer subdivisions have pressurized irrigation. I think United Water Idaho is a big monopoly bully and know they have a lot of us over a barrel.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 184.99.80.178

(G.F. responded.)

Jean Jewell

From: jttaylor2007@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, August 17, 2011 9:39 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from John Taylor follows:

Case Number:
Name: John Taylor
Address:
City: Boise
State: ID
Zip:
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: jttaylor2007@hotmail.com Name of Utility Company: United Water
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

Where in the process is the United Water rate increase? It was not that many years ago that they were granted an increase. Do you ever tell them no and if so when? The only way to get them to manage the company better, as we have had to do in our lives, is to tell them no, not this time. Will you please respond to my questions?

Thank You
John Taylor

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 75.94.16.69
