

IPC-E-11-08  
UWI-W-11-02

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2011 AUG 23 AM 8:12

21 August 2011  
IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

Commissioners;

So, it isn't enough that Idaho Power wants us rate payers to pay their employees retirement pay but now United Water wants us to pay them for NOT USING water as they worked so hard to have us do.

First of all, it IS NOT the ratepayers responsibility to pay for retirement for any one except ourselves if we happen to have a job that offers such a luxury. Many of us worked jobs that DID NOT OFFER any such luxury such as janitor and nursing work, which is what I did at starvation pay. I do NOT have the luxurious retirement pay that the Idaho Power Company wants ME to help pay for. It is Idaho Power Company's responsibility to pay whatever they are offering out of THEIR PROFITS, which are considerable. They ask every year for a rate increase but we who live on half a shoestring never see a raise in what little dole we are allowed. Seems Social Security is deemed a handout that, though we paid into it, we are not supposed to have. Seems you idiots would rather we live in the streets and beg rather than maintain the homes we worked to get when we were able to work.

Now poor Suez Water Company, which IS NOT an AMERICAN company to begin with, wants more profit. They have raised our rates every year since we were taken off South County Water except for 1 year. Guess they forgot that year. They now charge us \$18.10 even if we do not use 1 drop of water. Most times that is 3 times what we pay for the commodity we are SUPPOSED to get and pay for. For what? Supposedly to maintain the lines that really they never do here. All they do is dump in tons of unnecessary chlorine and make our once drinkable water harder and taste like garbage. It most likely is too although they say it is coming from the well we had under South County Water. Many have had to get softeners and buy bottled water now at much added expense that we did not have before.

They have harped and harped and harped that we MUST CONSERVE water and have increased rates to help them profit for no service to that end. NOW, since people have let their yards dry up and do not use water **poor Suez Water WANTS A 20% RAISE!** They wanted less use and now that many people are too damned poor to use water they want us to now pay MORE so they keep those nice fat profits going. Sorry, but I was raised in the East where you worked to make a living. If work fell off so did the pay. There was no such thing then of charging more for no service. The motto was "An honest day's work for an honest day's pay". Now it seems that the motto is "More pay for no work."

I strongly object to paying 1 cent more for water that is already priced too high just because some foreign outfit thinks that Americans OWE them since WE AMERICASNS ARE ALL RICH. What a laugh! Most of us are poor or struggling and have been all along. It is just most of us who are native and not black do the best we can

to care for ourselves but Commissions like yours seem to think that businesses always need more money. You seem to think that we who are poor or middle class grow money on tress in our yards and tax us to death. Well, our house gives us no income but drains it very nicely. Businesses, on the other hand, make money from their buildings from which they conduct their overpriced businesses with the blessings of the government. It is done under the guise that they are creating jobs. Another fallacy and big laugh for few jobs are created once the utility is operating. Most increases are wanted to pay already wealthy stockholders although it is given the disguise of being used to IMPROVE (?) infrastructure, which never happens.

Disgusted and NOT wealthy old citizen,

*Mrs. Sandra R. Hickstein*

Mrs. Sandra R. Hickstein

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** Jean Jewell  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2011 2:42 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell  
**Subject:** FW: comments on United Water rate increase request

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**From:** rick stone [<mailto:verc@cablone.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2011 3:16 PM  
**To:** Randy Lobb; Stacey Donohue  
**Subject:** comments on United Water rate increase request

Reading The Idaho Statesman article (8/4/11) about United Water's rate increase request surprised and discouraged me. It made me resolve to write to you. I ask you to look carefully at the details of this request. It seems unreasonable for them to ask for a high increase.

As a Boise residential customer of United Water, I have become aware of and tried to lower my water use in the ten years we have resided in Boise. They asked us to lower our water usage, now they say they are generating less income as a result. We do what the company asks, then we are penalized. Not a good way to do business or expect people to comply with requests. I have changed my lawn watering strategies. I have attended classes on how to plant more zeric plants that consume less water and have purchased many of those plants increasing my landscape costs. Idaho Water did not offer to rebate any of my expenses.

I understand that United Water has cost demands, but it seems to me unless there is an unforeseen emergency that a company would plan for the future just like an individual or family does. Part of their responsibility is long-term planning for infrastructure needs and setting aside money along the way for those expenditures. It's what we have to do in our household. Do they have incompetent budget analysts or financial advisers? Even considering a cost of living or inflation rise, United Water's percentage increase request is out of line. People are not getting raises at work, folks on a fixed income are not getting increases. A small single-digit increase occasionally is understandable, but not a large increase, not now. United Water needs to do a better job of planning for its future expenses, not charge us after the fact. It's like folks putting too much on their credit card and then wondering why they are so badly in debt and unable to pay.

Please do not grant the increase United Water is requesting.

Sincerely,

Diann Stone  
1325 S. Owyhee St.  
Boise, ID 83705

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** drmenasco@msn.com  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2011 1:30 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Rose Menasco follows:

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Case Number: UWI-W-11-02  
Name: Rose Menasco  
Address: 7994 Desert Ave  
City: Boise  
State: idaho  
Zip: 83709  
Daytime Telephone: 208-362-1921  
Contact E-Mail: [drmenasco@msn.com](mailto:drmenasco@msn.com)  
Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

United Water wants an increase for users who have done what they asked, namely to lower their consumption. They already have increased our summer usage which they say is to reflect their cost increase's due to usage. Now they want to increase our rates due to a decrease in our usage. Since we have no way of watering our lawn without their water, we have reduced the size of lawn and the amount watered on the remaining lawn. If you take a look at our subdivision you will see a lot of dead lawns simply because there is no way people can afford to pay their rate increase based on our bill the average \$5.82 raise per month is totally incorrect. We are not in favor of any increase based on my fixed income.  
Rose Menasco

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 70.58.160.116

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## Jean Jewell

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**From:** tantor@cableone.net  
**Sent:** Monday, August 22, 2011 8:01 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Jack & Joan Trueblood follows:

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Case Number: UWI-W-11-02  
Name: Jack & Joan Trueblood  
Address: 2757 Starlington Dr.  
City: Boise  
State: Idaho  
Zip: 83712  
Daytime Telephone: 345-4691  
Contact E-Mail: [tantor@cableone.net](mailto:tantor@cableone.net)  
Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

We are opposed to the 19.9 percent increase proposed by United Water Idaho. We are retired, on a fixed income. We cannot simply go to the pension fund and ask for an increase because utilities, groceries, gas and about everything else has gone up. On decreased water usage: We object to the fact that UWI encourages water conservation, but now wants to penalize its customers for being conservative. On infrastructure costs: It looks like UWI invested in facilities to provide water to proposed developments which were never built because the economy tanked. If so, that is not our fault. Even if their costs are legitimate, they are asking way too much. Please do not grant UWI's request.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 69.92.254.79

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## Jean Jewell

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**From:** asobtzak@peoplepc.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 21, 2011 4:33 AM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Alan Sobtzak follows:

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Case Number: UWI-W-11-02  
Name: Alan Sobtzak  
Address: 7065 Snohomish  
City: Boise  
State: ID  
Zip: 83709  
Daytime Telephone: 208-362-7907  
Contact E-Mail: [asobtzak@peoplepc.com](mailto:asobtzak@peoplepc.com)  
Name of Utility Company: United Water  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

It is obvious these people haven't a clue what is happening economically in this country. There has not been a pay increase for state employees for three years, the cost of living for basic needs continue to rise, a large part of the population is on fixed incomes, people are cutting back on buying and conserving whenever and wherever they can, and now because of their conservation efforts United Water wants to penalize them for not using enough water. Where is the justice? I only hope that the representatives serving on the Public Utilities Commission have more of a clue than those managing United Water.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 75.167.175.161  
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**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** jcblijboise@cableone.net  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 20, 2011 3:45 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness  
**Subject:** PUC Comment Form

A Comment from James Bussey follows:

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Case Number: *UWI-W-11-02*  
Name: James Bussey  
Address: 7201 valley hts. Dr.  
City: Boise  
State: id  
Zip: 83709  
Daytime Telephone:  
Contact E-Mail: [jcblijboise@cableone.net](mailto:jcblijboise@cableone.net)  
Name of Utility Company: United Water  
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

I object to the rate increase requested by United Water. I and many of my neighbors currently pay over \$150 per month to keep our yards and gardens alive. Many neighbors have already given up and let their yards dry up. The increase will force more of us to stop watering and further lower the water consumption. The neighborhoods that do not have irrigation need the help PUC can provide to form water systems that do not use potable water as is currently required of new subdivisions. Thank you. James Bussey

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>  
IP address is 96.18.223.180

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