

September 29, 2011

563 W Bogus View Drive
Eagle, ID 83616

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

RECEIVED

2011 OCT 12 AM 8:26

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Untied Water Application to Increase Rates

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the request by United Water to increase water rates by roughly 19% to its customers.

I find this rate increase request startling. What I know is that I am on a fixed retirement income and have not seen any inflation adjustments in the last 4 years but costs are increasing in most areas of my life. I also ran a public facility that often had little or no increase in funding but demand increased at or above the rate of inflation. In order to meet our mission, we had to reduce internal costs and manage our resources with severe scrutiny not just in one, but also over several years. We succeeded and not only managed within our budget but also improve the quality of our service to more of those so entitled. Good things happen when you pay attention to costs and service. As a bit of evidence of a potential lack of oversight in cost containments, I received two copies of the Notice of Application to Increase Rates in my last bill. That is trivial thing to be sure but does raise the question that oversight and internal controls may be lax. I see nothing in the United Water that addresses conservation of internal costs. Moreover, if United Water was paying attention to the economy, the timeline for implementing new or expanded services should have been stretched. I find that last point curious as the utilities have extensive and accurate planning information. Without a plan for current and future expenditure reductions/management, I cannot support this request and urge the PUC to do the same. Show us how United Water is controlling and reducing costs then send in the request.

Regards,



Jim Sola



The proposed increase in rates is subject to review and a decision by the IPUC, which may accept, modify or reject in whole or in part the proposed increase. A complete copy of the proposal is available at the Company's office at 8248 W. Victory Road, Boise, Idaho and at the Commission's office at 472 W. Washington, Boise, Idaho. It is also available on-line at the IPUC website: <http://www.puc.idaho.gov>, by following the links for "Water" and "Open Water Cases," and at United Water Idaho's website: <http://www.unitedwater.com/idaho>.

You can also file a comment on the Application via the IPUC website or mail comments to:

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

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 IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Sincerely,

Greg Wyatt
 Vice President and General Manager

So, we are told to conserve and then when we conserve & use less water, it lowers revenue. So, then you want us to pay ^(more) ~~less~~ we are using less. Wow, that makes total sense to me. What a solution! NOT! Average consumer is sick & tired of all the B.S. Yes we are sick of it!

Jean Jewell

From: n_sprack@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 12, 2011 1:23 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Nathaniel Spracklen follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Nathaniel Spracklen
Address: 7985 W McMullen
City: Boise
State: Idaho
Zip: 83709
Daytime Telephone: 208-422-6502
Contact E-Mail: n_sprack@yahoo.com
Name of Utility Company: UNITED WATER IDAHO
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

i just moved in a couple months ago(4) and have already paid their annual average. They are lying to this commission. Mabey not blatantly, anyone can percieve a statistic in a certain light. But they are not telling you the complete truth! Homeowner's are getting the worst of this as we are individualy billed. Common sense will tell you thousands of people living in apartments will not reflect the average homeowner(fewer in this economy) expense. Nobody is not in a position to have more expenses, nobody is getting raises in today's economy. They don't need our hard earned money to support another state's economy. This Idaho commision needs to protect Idahoans, not systemically syphen our resources(\$\$\$) to another state.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 140.153.203.4

Jean Jewell

From: barryandkeri@msn.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 3:08 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Barry C. Hanson follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Barry C. Hanson
Address: 11500 W Rader Dr
City: Boise
State: ID
Zip: 83713
Daytime Telephone: 208/384-6387
Contact E-Mail: barryandkeri@msn.com
Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

Dear Sir,
I believe a 19.9% rate increase borders on the obscene. One primary reason for this increase is reduced usage. Penalizing the public for behavior that is environmentally positive is the wrong message. Also, a request of this size is completely out of proportion with the current economics of the Boise Valley. United Water needs to do belt tightening just like the rest of us.

Sincerely,
Barry Hanson

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 184.99.108.243

Jean Jewell

From: boomerangdesigns@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 11, 2011 2:36 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Stacy Bluma follows:

Case Number: UWI-W-11-02
Name: Stacy Bluma
Address: 166 Willoway
City: Boise
State: ID
Zip: 83705
Daytime Telephone:
Contact E-Mail: boomerangdesigns@yahoo.com Name of Utility Company: United Water Idaho
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

My husband and I are employed full time. However, our income has decreased by approximately 20% since 2008. We disagree strongly with United Water's 20% rate increase. Utilities in Boise have increased each year (sewer, trash, water, electricity, gas...) We cannot keep up. We practice conservation in our home out of necessity. As rates continue to rise and our income continues to decline, we will need to make some decisions as to what services we can get rid of. We feel that we are forced to use these utilities and that there is no competition to bring down prices. Perhaps United Power shouldn't have 'invested' more than \$20 million in its system without determining whether their customers could afford this.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 24.117.147.164
