

✓ Ben Dick sent 11/16/05

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis 3/14

# IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public Workshop

RECEIVED

Case No. BIT-W-05-1

Athol, Idaho

November 2, 2005

NOV 16 AM 8:10

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you want your opinion noted in the record, please use the space below to write your comments. Add extra sheets as needed. You may either hand this sheet to a commission staff member or mail it to:

IPUC, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074.

You may also post comments on our Web site.

[www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov)

Click on "comments & questions."

a couple of things bother me. Number one is the forty-five dollar a month fee. I could see twenty-five or even thirty. If me and my family could drink and cook with it. which brings me to number two. There's so much chlorine in the water. we can't use it. we spend at least thirty dollars a month buying drinking and cooking water. As you can see that puts us at fifty dollars now. Our past water system (Seasons water Assoc) never chlorinated the water and passed every test. As far as cleaning around ~~meters~~ meters; charge the parties with the debris covered meters. I do agree w/ the 3rd pump. We had a 2nd one fail at our last home and it took a couple days to get parts + a new pump. because one →

Print Name Jason Hendricks

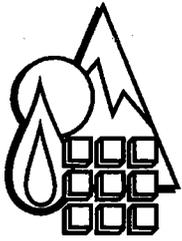
Sign Name Jason Hendricks

Address 2870 Silvermeadows Ip. Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

City and State Athol Id 83801

wasn't fixable. Surely some of these projected cost can be trimmed down. We are a two income family with plenty of kids. This kind of increase just isn't in our budget. Nobody pays 45- in this whole area. I hope you find different choices that are more reasonable. Thank you for your time and care for the public.

Sincerely,  
Jason Hendricks



✓ Ben Ark sent 11/16/05

✓ To A.U. ✓ To Commis 9/14

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Click on "comments & questions."

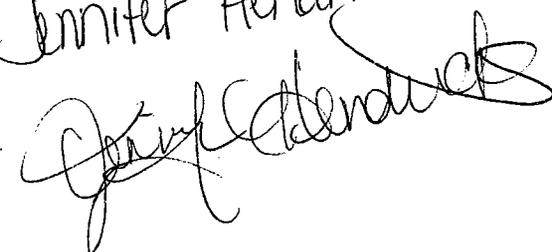
If you want my honest opinion about this water rate increase - I think it stinks. I have honestly never heard of anyone paying \$45<sup>00</sup> a month for water usage unless its a business such as a grocery store or another large business, but certainly not a family. I agree with a third pump, that way if one fails there is no one left w/o water. I do not agree with replacing valves that have not even broken yet or any other expenses that are unnecessary. The only expense that I would agree upon is a third pump. I am so against this increase because #1 our water has so much chorline in it that it is not usable except to wash dishes and laundry in. Chorline may help →

Print Name Jennifer Hendricks Sign Name Jennifer Hendricks

Address PO Box 100 Phone Number 259-2595

City and State Rothrum Id 83858

Kill bacteria but it also harms a humans insides.  
It is not healthy in any shape or form. When we first  
moved in you could smell the chlorine coming out  
of the kitchen faucet (now we have a filter which doesn't take chlorine out.) and when  
you take a shower it smells like your at a public  
swimming pool. #2 15000 Gallons a month is  
not that much water usage. Its not terriable if  
you don't want a nice yard but if you do you better  
get out your pocket book which brings me to  
#3! we are a two-income family with enough  
bills. Plus we have 2 children that need clothes  
on their backs! And yes we have to save for this.  
I can see and understand a small increase to  
25<sup>00</sup> or 30<sup>00</sup> dollars a month but no more than that.  
This small but exceptable increase from each  
household would pay for a 3rd pump and we can  
worry about future problems if any in the future!  
Thankyou for your time and cooperation!

Sincerely  
Jennifer Hendricks  


✓ Gen. Acc sent 11/14/05

✓ To AV.

✓ To Comm. :A

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2005 7:02 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005  
7:01:56 PM

Case: BIT-W-05-1  
Name: Levi and Angela Shoolroy  
Street Address: 29611 N. Silver Meadows Loop  
City: Athol  
State: ID  
ZIP: 83801  
Home Telephone: 208.683.0893  
E-Mail: angelas@icehouse.net  
Company: Bitterroot Water Company

mailing\_list\_yes\_no: Yes

Comment description: 1. At its heart, an increase from \$20 to \$45 per month is difficult to accept. It has been my experience that a user increase of 225% from current levels is driven by either a major upgrade to a utility or tremendous growth, either of which must be thoroughly substantiated and reviewed by both the Owner and consumers. It is our opinion that insufficient evidence is provided in the application to discern what the driving issue is for this proposed cost increase.

2. It is concerning that the application was filed in June 15, 2005, yet notice to the consumers was made on or around October 20, 2005 by a post card with an invitation to a public meeting. No information was provided in defense of the proposed rate increase.

3. The applicant claims that the proposed rate increase is, in part, to "maintain compliance with increasingly tougher government standards for water quality." Which standards are these? As a civil engineer, I work with municipalities to meet government regulations and am unaware of any new or more stringent drinking water standards that may be imposed on this system. A search of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) website indicates the water system was assessed for vulnerability in March, 2002 ([http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/SWARreports/download/1280260\\_Bitterroot\\_Water\\_Company.pdf](http://www.deq.state.id.us/water/SWARreports/download/1280260_Bitterroot_Water_Company.pdf)). Has IDEQ changed its position since then? If so, the applicant should provide documentation from IDEQ substantiating this claim.

4. The applicant further claims that "[r]ising power costs play the biggest role in recent operating expenses. However, if one reviews the cost schedules, rising power costs account for an estimated increase of \$1,098.45 from 2004 to the proposed rates. This amounts to an additional \$0.79 per user per month on the base rate. This claim is not valid as presented by the applicant.

5. The applicant also contends that these costs are "largely out of its control". We are suspicious of this statement since several of the major increases suddenly arose over the course of one year, as noted below. Have payrolls been submitted for these expenses? What additional services are being rendered for \$12,649 per year? What evidence does the applicant have that these are the result of IDEQ requirements or rising energy costs?

a. Schedule 2, Subitem 1 "Operation Labor" increased from \$0 to \$6,324.50 from 2003 to 2004.

b. Schedule 2, Subitem 4 "Administrative and General Salaries" increased from \$93.00 to \$6,324.50 (\$6,231.50) from 2003 to 2004.

6. The applicant is also requesting a large increase for "Billing and Bookkeeping" expenses, which is in addition to the "Operation Labor" and "Administrative and General Salaries" noted above. If all labor costs are summed, the total amount is on the order of \$24,000, which would pay an individual for roughly 20 hours per week. Has this level of work been documented and substantiated? Some small municipalities run water, sewer, and

road departments with this amount of time commitment.

7. The applicant's claim for an additional \$9,000 for chlorine residual testing appears considerably inflated. Standard water quality test kits for residual chlorine are readily available at a price of \$25 to \$50 with chemical costs of \$0.60 per test. This is dramatically different than the \$25 per test per day claim in Schedule 6, Item G.

8. Meter maintenance is claimed, yet no maintenance has been performed to date at our meter. The installation was by our contractor and vegetation control has been our responsibility. Asking for \$2,000 per year to do something we already do does not appear reasonable.

9. The applicant is proposing to purchase a backhoe. Since meter maintenance has not been provided to our knowledge, one would ask if a backhoe is warranted. One could contend it is necessary for maintaining the well site. However, the site is fairly small (perhaps 0.5 acres). We live on 5 acres and seem to maintain our land sufficiently. Is this expense justified?

10. How can the company claim it has the capacity to serve an additional 90 customers (Engineering form), yet require capacity upgrades this year?

11. How can the company sell 21,875,000 gallons of water last year (Engineering form, page 2), yet deliver 19,550,709 gallons (Engineering form, page 1)?

12. Engineering form, page 2: The main well pump is scheduled for replacement to increase its size. Is this to accommodate the additional 90 customers the applicant claims to be able to serve? If so, these costs should be borne by the new customers who will be diminishing the capacity of the current users. Current users cannot be expected to pay for expansion required for future users.

13. Several of the items indicate a recovery period of four years. Can we expect our rates to decrease in four years if the proposed rate increase is approved?

In summary, we ask that the Idaho Public Utilities Commission evaluate the applicant's claims in detail to verify these are warranted costs to pass on to the users. The purported reasons for the proposed rate increase from \$20 to \$45 per month are not valid based on information provided by the applicant. Perhaps the applicant has additional supporting documentation? If so, we believe this should be made public prior to a decision being made.

Transaction ID: 11151901.56  
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>  
User Address: 208.187.252.70  
User Hostname: 208.187.252.70

✓ Mike Beck  
sent 11/14/05

✓ To AV.

✓ To Commms  
E H

## Jean Jewell

---

**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2005 10:36 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005  
10:36:20 PM

Case: bit-w-05-1  
Name: MIKE FORD  
Street\_Address: 28874 silver meadows loop  
City: Athol  
State: ID  
ZIP: 83801  
Home\_Telephone: 683 0384  
E-Mail: tek mike@msn.com  
Company: bitterroot water co.  
mailing\_list\_yes no: yes  
Comment\_description: Hi; Thanks for the informative meeting at Athol.

I hope that the pressure goes up; many times in the summer we can barely take a shower. I had intended to install a 5,000 gallon water tank with its own pump so we wouldn't have to contend with just a dribble.

It seems like the low pressure is caused by the folks that use huge amounts of water; we use only our minimal allotment (basic monthly charge). If the large users are causing the low pressure, shouldn't the cost to them rise more rapidly than \$.75 per thousand? I guess more system pressure is a better answer.

Can't a large feeder line be installed from the pump house directly to the north end of the system, so the system is more balanced?

Can we drill our own well and disconnect from the community system?

Thanks for your attention, Mike Ford (North end of the water line)

Transaction ID: 11152236.20  
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>  
User Address: 67.0.145.79  
User Hostname: 67.0.145.79

✓ Ack  
sent 11/14/05

✓ To A.V.

✓ To Commis  
: 14

**Jean Jewell**

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**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2005 9:52 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005  
9:51:48 PM

Case: BIT-W-05-01  
Name: Steve and Karen Schuman  
Street Address: 26571 N. Silver Meadows Loop  
City: Athol  
State: Id  
ZIP: 83801  
Home Telephone: 208-659-2137  
E-Mail: silverschu@adelphia.net  
Company: Bitterroot Water  
mailing\_list\_yes\_no: yes  
Comment\_description: This increase request is over and above the local average!

We would like to see a credit in the winter months, just like we get an over charge in the summer months for going over the aloted amount. Something needs to be done with the people that abuse the water. Just not sure what the answer to that is.

We appose this increase!

Transaction ID: 11152151.48  
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>  
User Address: 69.172.199.161  
User Hostname: 69.172.199.161

*✓ Ack  
sent 11/16/05*

*✓ T. AV.*

*✓ To Commo.  
E H*

**Jean Jewell**

---

**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 15, 2005 1:49 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005  
1:49:07 PM

Case: BIT-W-05-01  
Name: Charles Rajewski  
Street Address: 4659 E. Lupin Lane  
City: Athol  
State: ID  
ZIP: 83801  
Home Telephone: 6836063  
E-Mail: rajewski@adelphia.net  
Company: Bitterroot Water Company  
mailing\_list\_yes no: yes  
Comment\_description: I can understand the need for a rate raise but to go from \$20 to \$45 seems ridiculous. You would think it would make more sense to raise it in smaller increments.

Will this rate raise improve the water pressure at my home???

Transaction ID: 11151349.7  
Referred by: <http://www.puc.state.id.us/scripts/polyform.dll/ipuc>  
User Address: 69.172.195.253  
User Hostname: 69.172.195.253

