



## Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Brad Little, Governor

Eric Anderson, President

John Chatburn, Commissioner

John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

Case No. GSW-W-22-01  
Order No. 35635  
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**NEWS RELEASE:** Commission will host customer and public hearing on Jan. 18 regarding Gem State Water application to change rates

**BOISE (Dec. 30, 2022)** – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a hearing on Jan. 18 in Athol to take customer and public testimony regarding Gem State Water Company, LLC’s application to change its rates.

Gem State Water is asking for approval to increase the monthly rates it charges to provide water service. If the application is approved by the commission, rates for customers would change based on the diameter of their water meter and the water system they belong to. For example, Spirit Lake East customers (including customers formerly of the Lynnwood Estates Subdivision), would see a monthly increase from \$25.55 to \$35.00. Bar Circle “S” customers (including customers formerly of Diamond Bar), would see a decrease from \$41.00 per month to \$35.00 per month.

The public hearing is on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) at the Athol Community Center, 30355 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Those attending in-person will have an opportunity to provide testimony that will become part of the formal record. People also may listen to the live testimony at the hearing by calling 1-415-655-0001, and enter meeting number 2467 617 1016. Those who call in will not be able to submit testimony over the phone.

This is the first general rate case for Gem State Water. The utility consists of Bitterroot Water Company, Bar Circle “S” Water Company, Spirit Lake East Water, Happy Valley Water Systems, Troy Hoffman Water Corporation, Diamond Bar Estates and Lynnwood Estates Subdivision. Rate increases were approved for individual companies from 2006 through 2019.

Gem State Water requested an effective date of Sept. 1, 2022. This was suspended by commission Order No. 35498, which said the proposed rate changes were suspended for 30 days plus five months or until the public utilities commission issues an earlier order accepting, rejecting, or modifying the proposed rate changes. The rate changes would increase Gem State’s revenue by \$402,000, which represents an increase of 69.9 percent. The public utilities commission may approve, reject, or modify the proposed rates and charges and may find rates and charges different from those proposed are just, fair and reasonable.

Written comments on Gem State Water’s application are being accepted until Jan. 20, 2023. Comments are required to be filed by e-mail unless e-mail is unavailable. To submit comments via e-mail, please visit the commission’s webpage at [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov). Click on the “Case Comment Form” link toward the top left of the page. Please use case number GSW-W-22-01 when filling out the form. Any comments should also be sent to Gem State Water at the e-mail addresses listed below. If e-mail is unavailable, comments may be mailed to the commission and Gem State Water at these addresses:

**For the Idaho Public Utilities Commission:**

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For more information on Gem State Water’s application, please visit:  
<https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6894>.