



*Case No: GPW-W-17-01*

*Contact: Matt Evans*

*(208) 334-0339 or 520-4763*

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

## **Workshop set regarding proposed rate increase for Kuna-based water company**

**BOISE (July 12, 2017)** - Staff from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission have scheduled a workshop for customers of Grouse Point Water Company regarding the utility's proposed rate increase.

The workshop is set for July 20 from 7 pm to 9 pm at Kuna City Hall.

It is intended to provide customers with information about the process leading up to the Commission's decision on the company's proposal, which calls for significant increases to the monthly service charge and charges based on the amount of water used.

Grouse Point Water serves 24 residences in the Kuna area. It has proposed increasing its monthly service charge from \$22 to \$113.86, an increase of 418 percent.

The proposed change to charges based on usage would create two tiers.

If the Commission approves the company's request in full, customers using 8,000 gallons of water or less per month would be charged \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons. There is currently no charge for usage up to 8,000 gallons per month.

Customers who use more than 8,000 gallons per month would be charged \$5 for each 1,000 gallons used, up from 50 cents – a 900-percent increase.

In its application requesting Commission approval for the rate increase, the company said revenue has fallen short of basic operational expenses every year since 2003, when it began charging customers based on usage.

From 2012 to 2015, the company said, it collected approximately 40 percent of the revenue required to offset basic operational and maintenance expenses, creating a deficit in excess of \$10,000.

Current rates also do not reflect capital improvements totaling \$8,423 in 2013 and \$119,018 in 2009, according to the company's filing. Those improvements include installation of a new pump

and construction of a new well and associated equipment needed to comply with federal drinking water standards regarding uranium.

Grouse Point said rates must be increased in order to continue operating.

It requested that the increase take effect April 15, 2017, but the Commission suspended the effective date until Oct. 15, 2017.

The company said the changes would generate \$36,997 annually. That is up from current annual revenue of \$6,842 and would allow Grouse Point to recover expenses related to routine operation and maintenance, as well as the capital improvements made in 2009 and 2013.

At the July 20 workshop, commission staff will summarize Grouse Point's application and explain how the Commission generally evaluates and decides a case.

Commission staff will not take a position on the merits of the case at the workshop, and staff's findings at the event will not be part of the official record in the case, but information gleaned from the workshop may contribute to the comments that staff will file along with other parties to the case.

Customers who would like to provide input for the record should file comments. The deadline to submit comments is Aug. 17.

Kuna City Hall is located at 751 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

To read Grouse Point's application and supporting documentation, go to [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Under the "Water" heading, select "Open Cases" and scroll down to Case No. GPW-W-17-01. To submit written comments, go to the website and click on "Case Comment Form," under the "Water" heading and enter the above case number. Comments can also be mailed to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID, 83720-0074.