AVU-E-04-01

Joint School District No. 391

Office of the Superintendent
800 Bunker Avenue
Kellogg, ID 83837
www.sd391.k12.id.us

Telephone (208)784-1348
Fax (208)786-3331

March 17, 2004

Jean Jewell, Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington St.
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Members of the Board of Commission:

On behalf of the Kellogg School District, I must oppose Avista's proposed increase in gas and electricity rates in the Silver Valley. We are a school district that struggles financially due to an already depressed economy. The unemployment rate and the poverty rate are among the highest in the state. Our property values are considerably less than similar property in the Coeur d' Alene area.

This all contributes to the financial struggle that the Kellogg School District has experienced in recent years.

There are months that the Avista utility bill for the school district exceeds $40,000. The proposed increase will hamper our efforts to maintain financial stability even more.

Sincerely,

Greg Godwin

Greg Godwin
Superintendent

Office of the Superintendent
800 Bunker Avenue
Kellogg, Idaho 83837

Joint School District No. 391

Telephone (208) 784-1348
Fax (208) 786-3331

April 13, 2004

Jean Jewell, Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Dear Commissioners:

As members of the Board of Trustees in the Kellogg School District, we must oppose Avista Corporation's proposed increase in rates for the gas and electricity customers in the Silver Valley.

The Kellogg School District has one of the lowest tax bases in the State of Idaho. Thus, we have and continue to struggle financially. This increase will severely affect the resources we have to provide adequate education for our students.

On behalf of the 1450 students in the Kellogg School District, please vote no on the proposed increase.

Sincerely,

Bob Stovern
Chair

Ron Wood
Vice Chair

Mark Schram
Trustee

Dwayne Layton
Trustee

Bryon Morgan
Trustee

AVU-E-04-1

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FILED ☐

2004 MAR 26 AM 8:49

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

March 18, 2004

Commission Members,

This letter is inform the IPUC that I strongly urge you to consider the people who would be affected by the requested increases in both natural gas and electricity. I know there are many who live on a fixed income having to cut spending in essential items such as food and medicines to be able to keep heat and lights on.

My mother who is 84 years of age has recently had to move into town and rely on natural gas for heat because of her loss of eye sight. Her previous home was heated by a wood furnace which she could no longer maintain keep filled with wood. Upon moving back to town being faced with a bill for natural gas requiring approximately 25% of her monthly Social Security which amounts to just under $600 per month.

Myself, being 64 years old and medically retired within the last year have quit heating with wood and had a new furnace installed switching to natural gas as I can no longer continue to get my wood in as I did when younger. My wife also has asthma and can greatly benefit from the cleaner gas heat.

We here in the Silver Valley have been subjected to many hardships throughout the years with few job opportunities remaining leaving most of the residents either retired or receiving poor wages. We cannot afford higher utilities!

I read that Avista has spent over $200 million on needed upgrades since 1990 without being granted a rate increase, which doesn't reflect the fact that Avista has increased the users fee by approximately $4.00 for meters on both gas and electricity, which amounts to approximately $8.00 for many homeowners.

In conclusion I wish to state that I don't believe the rate increase is justified and would like to see Avista become more reliant on efficient operations and not rely upon the expectations of the IPUC to grant an increase for utilities anytime their shareholders return or dividend doesn't attain the desired 15 to 19 %. In 1988 while working at Sunshine Mining Co. we gave concessions of over 26% in wages alone never to get it back.

I thank you for reading this letter and hope it may have helped you decide in the matters regarding Avista request.

Sincerely,

Bobbie T. Finlay

Bobbie T. Finlay
P.O. Box 204
Pinehurst, Idaho 83850

Avista Corp.
1411 East Mission MSC-12 PO Box 3727
Spokane, Washington 99220-3727
Telephone 509-489-0500

Gary G. Ely
Chairman of the Board,
President and Chief Executive Officer

AVISTA Corp.

AVU-E-04-01 (?)

July 1, 2002

Mr. Charles Kupfer
105 S. Bentley Place
Post Falls, ID 83854

Dear Mr. Kupfer:

I received your letter dated June 22 and am concerned about your statements regarding Avista. I have been at WWP/Avista for 35 years and was here the whole time (Paul Redmond) and Wendell Satre were CEOs. A RESPECTFUL HONEST MAN NOT ELY

The Company is trying to rebuild and get back to health and credibility after the financial problems, we, and many other utilities experienced. Your comments lead me to believe that you read only the headlines. We, in fact, are above board and have good employees that are honest and trustworthy and who try very hard to meet our customers' needs.

I do apologize for any difficulty you have experienced in dealing with our company; however, in reviewing those interactions, it is apparent that you have been derogatory and disrespectful to individuals in our company and it is not appreciated.

Yours truly,

Gary Ely

WAKE UP

ELY TELLS US TO CUT DOWN ON USEAGE AVISTA USEAGE AND THEN RECIEVES A 53% INCREASE INCOME, WHAT A PHONY, & WHAT A PARASITE. BUT TO ADD INSULT TO INJURY HE COMPENSATES YOU PEOPLE IN KICK BACKS, PERKS AND GIFTS OUR NEED INVESTIGATION BY FEDERAL NOT STATE AGENCY.

AVISTA ADVERTISEMENT 3-20-4
CHANNEL 2 9 PM-10 PM
WHAT A HYPE TO JUSTIFY
THEIR COSTS.
AND YOU PAID IDAHO
PARASITES SUPPORT
THEM.
WE ARE NO
DIFFERENT
FROM YOU &
AVISTA THAN
SADDAM
HOSSEIN
CREEK

UNDER THE LEADERSHIP
OF CEO GARY ELY
AND MR. PAUL REDMOND
A HONEST CUSTOMER
DRIVEN LEADERSHIP

Spokane,

Lett

Avista execs not having hard times

Avista is requesting to boost both electric and natural gas rates again. According to The Spokesman-Review (Feb. 7) Avista says, "Idaho customers need to shoulder more of the increased costs of doing business."

Yet, Avista's net income for 2003 was $43.4 million, up from $28.9 million in 2002 (Spokesman-Review, Jan. 29). That's a 50 percent increase in profit.

According to SEC filings, Scott Morris, president of Avista Utilities, has seen his executive compensation increase 66 percent from $184,069 in 2000 to $304,781 in 2002 (latest filing), and Avista CEO G.G. Ely saw his income increase 83 percent from $469,483 to $716,050 during the same period. This doesn't even include income gained from stock options!

Is the company experiencing hard times? Are the executives, as Mr. Morris puts it, shouldering "more of the increased costs of doing business"?

The proposed hike, including an electric base-rate increase from $4 to $5, will burden customers. They aren't receiving large pay increases. Especially hard hit will be the elderly and low-income families.

Why not shift the burden of lining the pockets of the executives to the large, wasteful customers who can better afford to "shoulder" the burden? Don't raise base rates. Instead, set progressive rates for wasters.

Vern Stevens
Kellogg, Idaho

HOW MUCH DOES AVISTA KICK BACK ON GIVE TO YOU FOR YOUR DECISIONS?

SHOULD BE THANKFUL TO IDAHO, WASH UTILITIES COMMISION WHO ARE PAID AND INFLUENCED WITH MONETARY & INFLUENCE WITH A CORRUPT KICK BACK INFLUENCER

AVISTA
BEFORE WITH PAUL REDMOND
WASHINGTON WATER POWER
THINGS WERE SO MUCH
CLEARER AND HONEST,
THEN MR REDMOND RETIRED
AND WE WERE UNDER THE
CONTROL OF ELY AND THE
NEW COMPANY AVISTA.
THEN RISING COSTS OF SERVICE
INVOLVEMENT WITH ENRON
AND COVER-UPS AND PROFIT
GAIN. QUESTIONS TO ELY
BY THIS WRITER WERE
ATTACKED AND ACCUSATIONS
OF DEROGATORY AND
DISRESPECTFUL QUESTIONS
ABOUT HIS COMPANIES POLICIES CONDUCT
AND INVOLVEMENT WITH/REWARD
OF ENRON WERE NOT APPRECIATED

✓ Gen. Ack sent 4/14/04 ✓ To A.V.

Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Tuesday, April 13, 2004 10:04 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Tuesday, April 13, 2004
9:03:31 PM

Case: AVU-E-04-1
Name: Tri-Pro Ceadr Products
Street_Address: 1122 Hwy 2
City: Oldtown
State: ID
ZIP: 83822
Home_Telephone: 208-437-2412
E-Mail: stevel@triprocedar.com
Company: Avista Utilities
mailing_list_yes_no: yes
Comment_description: I feel the proposed rate increase would have HUGE negative impact on our bussiness. We are a cedar remanufacturing plant in Oldtown, Idaho and are one of Avista's largest customers in north Idaho. Our power bill averages $40,000 a month. with Avista's proposed rate increase our rates would go up $10,000 a month and add $120,000 of cost to our bottom line for a year. We are a small family owned bussiness that has 65 employess. We have been a stable employer in our comunity of 2500 people for over 15 years and have adapted to the ever changing world of the forest products industry quite successfully, learning how to succeed in an area of mill closures and a constant loss of timber related jobs. Since we are a family owned bussiness we are satisfied making a modest profit as we don't have a large corporate headquarters somewhere to answer to. A rate increase like this could run us out of bussiness. It's sad to think that everything we have worked for over the last generation could be closed down and put 65 families out of work over something that has nothing to do with all the enviromental, saftey, or supply relatd issues we have battled all these years. Something we have absolutly no control over. This is a problem that we can't fix like Avista wants to fix their problem, by simply raising our prices to our customers. If we were to raise our prices to customers 26% they would go elsewhere to get their cedar products. And we would go out of business because we can't be competitive. We have accepted every rate increase Avista has had over the last 10 years. We have taken advantage of every energy saving program Avista has offered and have substantially decreased our power usage over the years. And our reward for doing a good job? Raise our rates $120,000 a year and force us out of bussiness. If we were making huge profits and could afford to loose another $120,000 a year I wouldn't be writing this. But $120,000 is most of the net profit we made last year. Combine this with the 46% increase in our medical insurance this year (which equates to another $132,000 annually) and we would've lost money last year. And 3 out of the last 5 years. I know all costs go up and Avista's costs are no exception, but raising prices 26% in one year is straw that will break this camels back. There has to be some kind of a compromise in order to keep bussiness's like ours from going broke. I can't imagine having to tell my 65 employees that we are closing down and they'll all be unemployed because the power company and the insurance company have run us out of bussiness. And the State of Idaho stood by allowed them to do it, even approved the rate increases that caused it. I think I'll let you guys come up and make that announcement to our crew. Please consider bussiness like ours and employees like we have that will have their lives destroyed if you approve this increase. And please keep me informed on the status and progress of this issue as it has a very DIRECT impact on the future of Tri-Pro Cedar and its 65 employees. Sincerly, Steve Linton, General Manager, Tri-Pro Cedar.

Transaction ID: 4132103.31
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User Address: 69.41.128.242
User Hostname: 69.41.128.242