



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Brad Little, Governor

Edward Lodge, President

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Case No. GSW-W-24-01

Order No. 36703

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NEWS RELEASE: Commission issues decision on northern Idaho water utility's application to increase rates.

BOISE (Aug. 5, 2025) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision on a northern Idaho water utility's application to increase the rates and charges to provide water service.

Gem State Water Company, LLC had sought commission approval to increase rates between 53 and 79 percent. The utility has six systems that serve customers in northern Idaho. The monthly bill for an average customer receiving water from a 1-inch meter would have increased between \$21.65 and \$27.65, depending on which system was serving them.

In its application to the commission, the utility sought approval for an increase of \$602,050 in its annual revenue requirement. Gem State Water said the increase was needed to recover the current cost of operating and maintaining the water systems, the cost for system improvements and investments to replace aging infrastructure. The utility said it spent money on improvements that included generators, meters and pipes.

Customers will see an increase in their minimum monthly charge and the commodity rate per 1,000 gallons of water based on the size of their meter and which system is serving them. Customers served by the Bar Circle S and Spirit Lake water systems and who have 1-inch meters will see their monthly charge increase from \$35 per month to \$46 per month.

The commission set the commodity rate at \$4.07 per 1,000 gallons after customers use their allotted number of gallons. Some customers are allotted 7,500 gallons before the \$4.07 charge per 1,000 gallons starts, while other customers are allotted 15,000 gallons before the charge starts. These changes apply to customers with 1-inch meters.

The increase in the monthly charges and commodity charge will give the utility an increase in its annual revenue requirement of \$373,888.

The commission also approved three new non-recurring charges that Gem State Water asked for. The utility will be allowed to collect a \$2,500 deposit for a meter assembly to connect to a fire hydrant and purchase water during construction work. The commission determined it was a reasonable way for the utility to encourage customers to return the meter assembly in good condition. Gem State Water also will be allowed to charge \$20 for a final meter reading on an account and to provide a final bill to a title company when a property is sold. Additionally, the utility will be allowed to charge \$30 annually when the installation and subsequent removal of irrigation meters each take a single visit. The utility will be allowed to charge \$50 if repeat visits are necessary.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7471.