

PUBLIC WORKSHOP



Aspen Creek Water Company General Rate Case Case No. ASP-W-24-03



IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
February 26, 2025



Introduction


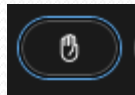
Adam Rush – Public Information Officer

Michael Ott – Technical Analyst

Ty Johnson – Auditor II

Jolene Bossard – Utilities Compliance Investigator

Workshop Participation

- If participating online using your computer:
 - To open chat in Webex, please select this icon on the lower right side of the Webex screen. 
 - Type questions in the chat box.
 - Please use the “Everyone” option when using chat to ensure your message will be seen.
 - To speak using computer audio, click on the hand icon close to the middle bottom of the Webex screen. 
This will signal to me that you would like to be unmuted, and I will send you an unmute invite.
You will then be able to unmute your audio.

Workshop Participation

- If calling in using your phone:
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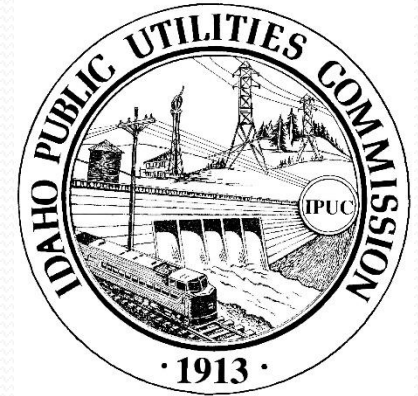
This PowerPoint file is available on the commission's homepage at puc.idaho.gov

Purpose of a Public Workshop

- Informational session to learn about this case.
- Provide customers an opportunity to meet Commission Staff.
- Provide guidance on how to submit written public comments.
- Answer any questions regarding the case.

*This Public Workshop is not part of the official case record.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission



- Established in 1913. Idaho Code Sections 61, 62, and 63.
- The Commission regulates Idaho's investor-owned utilities, ensuring adequate service and reasonable rates.
- The Commission is comprised of three Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Commissioners make the decisions in each case.
- Commission Staff is made up of Auditors, Consumer Compliance Investigators, Engineers, & Technical Analysts.
- Staff is conducting this workshop. Staff is one of the Parties in the rate case and provides written Comments to the Commissioners.

State Law Requirements

State law requires that the Commission:

- Consider the evidence that is on the record, which includes the Company's Application, comments from Staff, and customers' written comments or oral testimony at customer hearings.
- Meet the statutory public interest standard that ensures customers have adequate, safe, and reliable service at just and reasonable rates.

Important Points to Consider:

- It is not in the public interest to have a utility that cannot adequately serve all the customers in its assigned territory now and in the future.
- All Commission decisions must withstand Idaho Supreme Court appeals from either utility or customer groups.

Requirements of Investor-Owned Utilities

- Serve every customer in their assigned territory.
 - Customers do not have a choice of a different utility company.
- In exchange for their guarantee to provide **adequate, safe, and reliable service**, the state must provide utilities the opportunity to:
 - Recover **prudently incurred** expenses necessary to serve customers; and,
 - Earn a **reasonable rate of return** on their investment.



Aspen Creek Water

Application
Schedule

Rate Case Drivers

Revenue Requirement

Rate Design



Schedule



Event	Date	Location
Case Filed	August 26, 2024	Boise, ID
Virtual Public Workshop	February 26, 2025 @ 6:00 pm	
Staff Comments	March 6, 2025	
Public Comments	March 6, 2025	
Company Response	March 27, 2025	
Customer Hearing	March 13, 2025 @ 4:00 pm	St. Charles City Hall
Close of Case	Final Order	
Proposed Effective Date	May 1, 2025 (or Final Order date)	

Rate Case Drivers

- **Operating Expenses**

- \$15,020 increase from 2023 reported expenses.
 - Labor, purchase power, chemical and transportation Costs.

- **Plant In Service Additions**

- Infrastructure and equipment used to provide water service, such as pipelines, pumps and wellhouses.
- \$80,037 increase from 2023 Plant in Service.
 - Pressure reducing valve (PRV), wellhouse and inventory

Rate Case Drivers

- Billing practices
 - Staff discovered that the Company was charging different rates than the 2002 commission approved tariff allowed.
 - Staff opened a docket in 2024 to investigate the Company's billing practices. (ASP-W-24-01)
 - Billing issues will be addressed in this case. (ASP-W-24-03)



Revenue Requirement

Revenue Requirement

- The amount the Company needs to meet its expenses, cover depreciation, and offer a sufficient rate of return on the Company's investments to the system.
- **Components:**
 - Operating Expenses;
 - Taxes;
 - Depreciation;
 - Return on Capital Investments:
 - $\text{Capital Investments} \times \text{Rate of Return}$;

Expenses

- Must be prudent
- Must be used for service

Taxes

- Properly Calculated

Depreciation

- Properly Calculated
- Based on Plant in Service

Return on Capital Investments

- **Plant in Service:**
 - Must be prudent.
 - Used and Useful; and,
- **Working Capital:**
 - Helps cover short-term costs and keeps operations running smoothly.
 - Correct calculation and approved methods
- **Rate of Return:**
 - Calculated based on Equity Costs; and,
 - Must be able to access the capital needed to maintain the system.



Rate Design

Michael Ott
Technical Analyst

Rate Design

- Purpose: Propose rates that allow the Company the opportunity to collect its revenue requirement.
- Common Rate Designs for Small Water Utilities in Idaho:
 - Some Companies charge a fixed rate only.
 - Some charge a fixed rate plus a rate for each unit of water consumed (volumetric rate).

Company Proposal

- Aspen Creek currently charges a fixed rate.
 - \$25 per month.
- Proposal: Charge \$134 per month.
 - Billed Monthly.
 - Annual Revenue = \$134 x 73 Customers x 12 Months = \$117,384

Rate Impact

Meter Size	Current Tariff	Company Proposal	Change
1 Inch	\$ 25	\$ 134	\$109



Consumer Assistance

Jolene Bossard

Utilities Compliance Investigator

Consumer Assistance

- Utility Compliance Investigators assist customers to resolve issues and/or disputes with the Company.
- Investigators monitor compliance with laws, commission rules, and the Company tariff.
- Represent consumer interests when staff is developing a position in a case
- In a rate case, investigators review issues from previous cases, review previous complaints, review submitted comments from customers, and investigate consumer issues raised in the case.

Consumer Issues

As of this week, the PUC has received 24 Customer Comments

- Majority of comments were that the customer felt the proposed increase was too high.
- Limit the increase or phase the increase in over 2-5 years, with a lower overall increase.
- The proposed connection charge was too high.
- The water allotment should be 10K gallons.
- Many customers believe that they are paying for new development.
- There is a lack of clarity regarding the application and want more information regarding the costs.

Customer Comments

Customer written comments are due March 6, 2025.
(Reference Case Number **ASP-W-24-03**)

- Internet Website Address – puc.idaho.gov
- Online - Case Comment Form (once comments are submitted, they become part of public record)
- Email – Address: secretary@puc.idaho.gov
- Mail – IPUC, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074
- Public Customer Hearing – Thursday March 13, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at the St. Charles City Hall, 25 N. Main St., St. Charles, ID 83272

COMMENTS ONLY
(QUESTIONS WILL NOT BE ADDRESSED)

Idaho Public Utilities Homepage



- [Case Comment Form](#)
- [Annual Gross Intrastate Revenues Report Form](#)
- [Electric](#)
- [Telecom](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Natural Gas](#)
- [Rail Safety](#)
- [Pipeline Safety](#)
- [Multi-Utility](#)
- [Tariff Advice](#)

News Updates

- Rocky Mountain Power Technical Hearing - Jan. 9
- Rocky Mountain Power General Rate Case PowerPoint Presentation - Sept. 25
- IPC-E-24-22 PowerPoint Presentation - Sept. 17
- Idaho Power Rate Case PowerPoint - Sept. 5
- Idaho Power Rate Case Video Presentation - Sept. 5
- CDS Stoneridge Video Presentation
- CDS Stoneridge Workshop Presentation - June 4

Wildfire Safety Resources

Utility representatives may use their passcode to electronically file.

[eFile Portal](#)

Use the [eFile Portal Registration Form](#) if you are a representative of a utility and need a passcode to submit documents.

Consumers

- [Consumer Complaint / Inquiry Form](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Consumer Resources](#)
- [Why Can't You Tell Them No](#)

Comments Form Page



Case Comment or Question Form

Use this form to **file a comment** or **ask a question about a utility case** pending before the Commission. If you know the case number, please include it.

Submit electronically below or send in to:

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P O Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0074
FAX: (208) 334-3762

Use the [Consumer Complaint / Inquiry Form](#) if you need help resolving a problem with a utility or have a question about your bill, disconnection of service, service reliability and outages, cost of a line extension, customer service, or other issues that are not related to a utility case.

Case Comment Form
Use this form to file a comment or ask a question about a case

Case Number:

First Name:

Last Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Daytime Phone:

Email:


Utility Company:

I am interested in attending an online workshop or potentially an in-person workshop. Yes, I am interested. No thanks.

I am interested in attending a customer hearing to give testimony (verbal comments) for the record on this case. Yes, I am interested. No thanks.

I acknowledge that submitting a comment in an open case constitutes a public record under Idaho Code § 74-101 (13) and all information provided by me on this form is available for public and media inspection. My comment may be reviewed by the utility.

Ask a question or state your comment:

Send 

PUC Home Page

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Water Page

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Resources

[Water Company Information Packet](#)

[EPA Information](#)

[DEQ - Public Drinking Water Systems](#)

[NARUC Committee on Water](#)

[Approved Water Tariffs](#)

Orders & Notices

[Commission Order No. 36000- Interest Rate on Consumer Deposits](#)

[Commission Order No. 36141 - Utilities](#)

[Regulatory Fees](#)

Rules

[IPUC Rules](#)

[Safety and Accident Reporting Rules](#)

Open Water Cases Page



The header features the IPUC logo on the left, a search bar with the text "ENHANCED BY Google" in the center, and a navigation menu on the right. The navigation menu includes links for Home, Cases, File Room, Laws & Rules, Consumers, Press Releases, About us, and Contact us.

IPUC Open Water Cases

Search: For:



CaseNo	Company	Description
ASP-W-24-03	ASPEN CREEK WATER COMPANY, INC.	ASPEN CREEK WATER COMPANY - APPLICATION TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL INCREASE IN WATER RATES AND NEW CONNECTION FEES
BPI-W-24-01	Buckskin Properties, Inc.	BUCKSKIN PROPERTIES, INC - INVESTIGATION INTO BUCKSKIN PROPERTIES, INC. OWNER OF A WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
CAP-W-24-01	CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION	CAPITOL WATER CORP -- GENERAL RATE CASE
CAP-W-24-02	CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION	CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION - APPLICATION TO CHANGE ITS SCHEDULE NO. 3 PURCHASED POWER COST ADJUSTMENT RATE
CAP-W-24-03	CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION	CAPITOL WATER CORPORATION -- PETITION TO REQUEST AN INVESTIGATION INTO FLYING H TRAILER RANCH
FLS-W-24-02	FALLS WATER COMPANY INC	FALLS WATER COMPANY, INC - GENERAL RATE CASE
GNR-W-24-01	GENERIC	VALIANT IDAHO, INC AND TIC UTILITIES, LLC -- INVESTIGATION INTO VALIANT IDAHO, INC. AND TIC UTILITIES, LLC, OWNERS OF A NORTHERN IDAHO WATER SUPPLY AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Case Summary Page

Case Summary

Last Updated	Case Number	Date Filed	Case Type	Status	Description
08/27/2024	ASP-W-24-03	08/26/2024	Application	Notice Received	ASPEN CREEK WATER COMPANY - APPLICATION TO AUTHORIZE A GENERAL INCREASE IN WATER RATES AND NEW CONNECTION FEES

Case Files

08/26/2024 [APPLICATION.PDF](#)
08/26/2024 [ATTACHMENT EXHIBIT 1-4.XLSX](#)

Orders & Notices

09/13/2024 [NOTICE_OF_APPLICATION_ORDER_NO_36324.PDF](#)
10/09/2024 [NOTICE_OF_PARTIES.PDF](#)
01/09/2025 [NOTICE_OF_MODIFIED_PROCEDURE_ORDER_NO_36440.PDF](#)



Public Comments

10/15/2024 [COMMENTS_5.PDF](#)
10/17/2024 [COMMENTS_2.PDF](#)
10/21/2024 [COMMENTS_2.PDF](#)
10/29/2024 [COMMENTS_4.PDF](#)
11/01/2024 [COMMENT_1.PDF](#)
11/04/2024 [COMMENT_1.PDF](#)
11/05/2024 [COMMENT_1.PDF](#)

Where do we go from here?

- Customers can subscribe to the Commission's RSS feed to receive updates about all cases via email.
- Continue submitting your comments.
- Public Customer Hearing, Thursday, March 13, 2025
- The Commission will issue a final order which will close the case.



You can find case information and file comments on the PUC website:

puc.idaho.gov

Case Number ASP-W-24-03

Direct: (208) 334-0300

Toll-Free: (800) 432-0369

Fax: (208) 334-3762

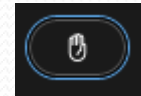


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