

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

June 3, 2023

P.O. Box 83720

Boise, ID 83720-00714

Subject: Case No. FLS-W-23-01

My water rate description is Falls Water 3/4" Residential. After reviewing the proposed general rate increase (copy attached) I found it difficult to understand their proposal regarding the cost and water usage.

My water usage is low during the Fall, winter and Spring months. My general range of usage is between 1000 to 4000 gallons of water. I have a single family home with garden space and lawn. Therefore, my summer watering is much higher and has been as high as 10,000 gallons. Following are some reasons for my difficulty in understanding the rate schedule.

1. The minimum rate charge is \$18.75 for 12,000 gallons of water, which comes to a cost of 0.917 per 1000 gallons. If you only use 1,000 gallons, it will cost \$18.75. If you used 10,000 gallons it still will cost \$18.75. This appears to discourage water usage during fall, winter months.

2. My average water usage for 2022 was 25,000 gallons. This indicates that single family homes with yards are grouped with trailer courts and apartments. This may be a poor way to establish an average water usage.

3. Using the current bill amount for 19,000 gallons and bill amount of \$25.17, there would be \$6.76 after deducting the \$18.75 for 12,000 gallons. The cost would be 0.9571 for the 7,000 gallons.

Using the proposed bill of \$35.19 for 19,000 gallons, there would still be 7000 gallons for a cost of \$16.44. The cost for these 7000 gallons would be \$2.349 per 1000 gallons.

4. I used the billing period of 8/15/22-9/15/22 and 8/15/23-9/15/23 for cost and usage comparison. The first period is my actual cost and the second period is my actual gallons used for 2022. This period of time was my highest for 2022.

Period 8/15/22-9/15/22 → gallons used	70	COST	\$71.94
Maximum allowed	-12	COST	-18.75
Total	58		53.19

Average cost for the 58 gallons was  $0.9171 = \$53.19$

Proposed Period 8/15/23-9/15/23-gallons used	70	COST	\$154.99
Maximum allowed	-12		-18.75
Total	58		\$136.24

Average cost for the 58 gallons would be  $\$2.349 = \$136.24$

The proposed increase would be \$101.80 more for the same usage. I think this large cost increase would encourage less yard watering and ugly yards.

I hope that I have not made any errors in my computations. If so please advise.

I do not know how to address the proposed 40% increase. However, if this 40% applies to apartments and trailer courts, it certainly would be higher for single family housing.

I have no thoughts on the water usage for Taylor Mountain or Morningview Acre, except it appears that Falls Water has recognized that Morningview Acre has been over charged.

thank you

David Olson

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Idaho Falls, ID 83401

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UTILITIES COMMISSION

## NOTICE TO FALLS WATER CO., INC. CUSTOMERS

On May 12, 2023, Falls Water Co., Inc. filed an application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) for a proposed general rate increase to become effective July 1, 2023. The filing is subject to public review and a Commission decision before it can take effect.

Falls Water Co., Inc. seeks approval to increase rates to recover the increasing cost of operations and maintenance, system improvements, and replacing aging infrastructure.

If the proposed rate increases are approved, the table below shows the current and proposed typical monthly bill for customers using average usage by customer type for the respective systems.

Rate Class (Company)	Average Usage (in 1000 gallons)	Current Bill	Proposed Bill	Percentage Increase
Falls Water 5/8" & 3/4" Meters	19	\$25.17	\$35.19	40%
Falls Water 1" Meters	20	\$29.15	\$45.11	55%
Falls Water 1 1/2" Meters	37	\$47.81	\$65.33	37%
Falls Water 2" Meters	81	\$91.90	\$127.17	38%
Falls Water 4" Meters	75	\$101.19	\$142.88	41%
Taylor Mountain 3/4"	21	\$24.26	\$36.57	51%
Taylor Mountain 1"	23	\$25.68	\$47.18	84%
Taylor Mountain 2"	250	\$362.60	\$389.12	7%
Morningview 1/4 Acre 5/8 & 3/4 Inch	8	\$56.36	\$27.60	-51.0%
Morningview 1/4 Acre 1" Meter	9	\$56.53	\$38.90	-31.2%
Morningview 1/2 Acre 5/8 & 3/4 Inch	14	\$67.38	\$31.74	-52.9%
Morningview 1/2 Acre 1" Meter	19	\$68.23	\$45.50	-33.3%
Morningview 1 Acre 5/8 & 3/4 Inch	43	\$77.81	\$68.09	-12.5%
Morningview 1 Acre 1" Meter	37	\$76.79	\$60.28	-21.5%

If approved the proposed increase would increase the Company's total annual revenues by \$1,174,000, or 47.3%. A copy of the application is available for review at Falls Water Co., Inc.'s office located at 2180 North Deborah Drive, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 83401. Copies of the application are on file at Idaho Public Utilities offices at 472 West Washington Street, Boise Idaho 83702. The application is also available for review on the Commission's website at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Customers may also subscribe to the Commission RSS feed to receive periodic updates via email about the case.

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Written comments may be submitted to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission via email by going to the following website:

<https://puc.idaho.gov/Form/CaseComment>

Please refer to Case No. FLS-W-23-01 in all correspondence.