

**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 1:00:14 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: David Clark  
Submission Time: Jul 30 2022 12:10PM  
Email: [happytrailppr@gmail.com](mailto:happytrailppr@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-771-0781  
Address: 9840 N Happy Trail  
Rathdrum, ID 83854

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "July 29, 2022 I received notice that Gem State Water is seeking a rate increase of 82% for the Bitterroot/Happy Valley Water System. I have no basis or factual information upon which to base my objection to this rate increase other than the amount of 82% in one fell swoop is obscene and outrageous for this small, rural water system!! And the notice received does not address what the rate might be for overages that are not uncommon in the summer months. I find it hard to believe that an 82% increase is justified. We're all struggling in this Bidenflation economy. We don't need additional struggles to keep water flowing in our taps."

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 5:00:13 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Connie Maxwell  
Submission Time: Jul 30 2022 4:46PM  
Email: [mcmx@roadrunner.com](mailto:mcmx@roadrunner.com)  
Telephone: 208-651-2994  
Address: 5070 N Anne Street  
Coeur d ALENE, ID 83815

Name of Utility Company: Gem State

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "W e can't afford a higher water bill. With gas and food and our inhalers it is getting very hard to get by with a fixed income. Please do not approve this raise for Gem State. "

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Sunday, July 31, 2022 7:00:25 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: james johnson  
Submission Time: Jul 30 2022 7:17PM  
Email: jamescj@frontier.com  
Telephone: 208-664-5195  
Address: 1290 E. Margaret Ave.  
coeur d alene, ID 83815

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "James C. Johnson 1290 E. Margaret Ave. Coeur d Alene, ID, 83815 208-664-5195 A 30 plus year resident, homeowner at the above address. Received the 68% increase request for the Troy Hoffman Water System, a portion of the 69.9% overall increase requested. Between the Avista utilities increase (ours \$50 per month), this increase if approved adds up to much bigger numbers, especially for those of us retired. We expected some increase, inflation all around. Assuming Avista was mainly natural gas as our electric portion is mainly hydro generated, the dams long ago established. We have no idea of other costs incurred or improvements proposed by Gem State Water, this is adding \$22.65 a month to our service. We appreciate the water has always been safe and dependable, can support what is needed to continue the service. What is reasonable, what is inflation, what is prudent, if inflation is truly 9%, 69.9% is a blowout number, a number needing the scrutiny of a Commission to examine. Thanks for hearing me out. Jimhttps://"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 9:00:08 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Michael Mallory  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 8:54AM  
Email: mlmlkm@outlook.com  
Telephone: 208-699-7410  
Address: 26645 North Bitterroot Court  
Athol, ID 83801

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water Company

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "To: Jan Noriyuki Commission Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0074 Good morning, I am requesting an open forum in Athol Idaho regarding the request of Gem State Water to raise our rates, I have been communicating with residents affected by this request and we are extremely unhappy. The issues concerning us per month rate change, gallons per month reduction from 15K to 10K, before new rate per gallon kicks in, the charges Gem State Water has outlined are in question, respectfully we need the commission to dig into this request and provide the open forum here in Athol. In our community, we only use six months for watering our lawns, flowers, trees. The request acts as though usage is a year around demand, the water company does not read meters during the off months (6) since they are snow covered, for this period they send a monthly bill at the base rate and when meters are first read usually in April, if there is any overage a bill is sent with those details. From my descriptions on operation this request is way out of line for the service provided. Thank you, Michael Mallory "

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 10:00:06 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Paul East  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 9:09AM  
Email: [peast44@msn.com](mailto:peast44@msn.com)  
Telephone: 208-209-3373  
Address: 28657 N. Silver Meadows Loop  
Athol, ID 83801

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "Referring to Gem State Water's Proposed 'General Rate Increase', specifically the 'Bitterroot System'. the proposed increase of 135% for this system is a financial hardship on this family of two retired seniors living on Social Security alone. We do understand Gem State need for an increase but it should be perhaps phased over a period determined by the PUC, and trust in that Commission's ability to fairly look at all factors involved before giving Gem State Water a 'Windfall' of this stature. As a retired Senior Construction Project Manager in the building of Water & Waste Water Plant Systems, I have followed Gem State's acquisition of Bitterroot Water Co., I understand Gem State's investment in bringing Bitterroot Water's plant up to PUC & Federal 'Standards', however they seem to want the 'Whole Enchilada'.....Respectfully Submitted, Paul L. East"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 12:00:06 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Linda Jones  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 11:49AM  
Email: [rjones2551@gmail.com](mailto:rjones2551@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-561-1251  
Address: 4100 E Lupin Ln  
Athol, ID 83801

Name of Utility Company: Bitterroot

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "The proposed rate for water is 135% increase for our area. We currently pay \$21.00 per month, the proposed amount is \$49.25, which is completely out of line and highway robbery. We are retired and living on a fixed income, this is outrageous. Everything has increased and now water which is a great necessity is going to be affordable for us. Any updating or repairs that Gem State Water needs to conduct, can be written off on their taxes, the consumer should not be responsible for it. Also, they will be making a disgusting amount of profit with this increase, which is morally wrong!"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 1:00:06 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Dale Fitzgerald  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 12:27PM  
Email: DBFPLF@aol.com  
Telephone: 208-683-2662  
Address: 29448 N Silver Meadows Loop  
Athol, ID 83801

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "This is regarding the outrageous price increase request from Gem State Water. I have been a resident at this address for 18 years and in that time only one rate increase has been approved so I am not totally against any kind of increase but I think it should be reasonable. In this rate increase request our basic monthly rate goes from \$21 to \$49.25 and they cut our basic allowance from 15,000 to 10,000 gallons and then want to increase the over usage fee from \$1.73 / 1,000 gals to \$2.85. My last year's record shows that I exceeded the 15,000 gallon limit only 5 months and during the winter months where they don't read the meter I had an average usage of around 3500 gallons per month. During these low usage months I am paying for many thousands of gallons of water that I am not using which is just pure profit for the company. I would think just raising the basic fee \$10 or \$15 and keep everything else the same would be a more reasonable request"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 2:00:06 PM

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The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Janet Lucero  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 1:13PM  
Email: [jmlucero@pacbell.net](mailto:jmlucero@pacbell.net)  
Telephone: 916-838-1374  
Address: 1657 W Highway 54  
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Name of Utility Company: GEM State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "As a resident of the SPIRIT LAKE EAST development, and as a customer of GEM Stater Water district, I OPPOSE the proposed 69% rate hike that GEM State Water has applied for. The 69% proposed hike is EXCESSIVE! Please do NOT approve this excessively HIGH rate increase. If the PUC approves this rate increase, water will become unaffordable to home owners. "

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 3:00:06 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: James Johnson  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 2:20PM  
Email: [jim.nwrealtor@gmail.com](mailto:jim.nwrealtor@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-660-1121  
Address: 17955 N Wrangler  
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "I want to state that the rate increase that Gem State Water is seeking is unnecessary and unjust and I am against this proposal. By Gem States own accounting they have several items that increase their revenue requirement that are not a recurring charge, such as: a truck purchase for \$87,150.00, contracting items for \$72,849.00 and \$9,148.00 also a misc. charge of \$ 49,021.00. These non recurring charges come to a total of \$218,168.00. These charges are enough to disprove Gem States requirement for revenue increase. Gem States administration costs are also too high at \$94,991.00. My Question is that is this Public Utility Company looking to spend away dollars to get an unjust rate increase? They certainly do not look as though they are trying to save money, they could have leased a truck far less expensive and saving approx. \$80,000.00, and what is in the misc expense for \$49,021.00 ? So in my opinion a rate increase of a realized 30% in my overage cost and others nearly 500% is totally unfair and unjust. Thank you, Jim Johnson"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Saturday, July 30, 2022 3:00:07 PM

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The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Judy Dlouhy  
Submission Time: Jul 30 2022 2:31PM  
Email: [dennisdlouhy@live.com](mailto:dennisdlouhy@live.com)  
Telephone: 208-699-8138  
Address: 6608 E Williams Ln  
Athol, ID 83801

Name of Utility Company: No Answer

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "How does this water co have the right to increase our water bill by 102% and the other systems only increase by 64 to 82 %. How do they decide which systems pay more than others ? It would be nice if our annual revenue from SSA went up by \$ 402,000 !! I think the customers need to have a meeting with Gem State before this increase. Thank you , Judy Dlouhy"

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Name: Larry Tanzer  
Submission Time: Jul 30 2022 2:17PM  
Email: [ltanzer@frontier.com](mailto:ltanzer@frontier.com)  
Telephone: 208-623-2618  
Address: 6509 W Coeur D Alene Drive  
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "I today received a notice of a requested water rate increase. The proposed change would (according to the letter) be a 69% increase. 69% seems to be excessive. While I understand that all costs are rising, I would like to see evidence that Gem State is doing everything possible that can be reasonably expected to control costs. In other words, are they being fiscally responsible? Thank you,"

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**From:** [PUCWeb Notification](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Monday, August 1, 2022 4:00:07 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Ron Beringer  
Submission Time: Aug 1 2022 3:54PM  
Email: ronberinger@gmail.com  
Telephone: 559-906-5340  
Address: 20970 N Wandering Pines RD  
Rathdrum, ID 83858

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "I am submitting this comment to strongly object to the proposed 69.9% rate increase requested by Gem State Water. A 69.9% increase is outrageous since it is not inline with current inflation figures reflected in Bureau of Labor consumer price index of 9.1% for the past twelve months especially for retired people who have no way of increase retirement benefits. This looks like Gem State is trying to pass on their acquisition cost for Bar Circle S Water. Even factoring rising energy costs this in no way is justified. I would like the commission to keep in mind that there are lots of numbers between 0% and 69.9% and if know of way to increase my retirement income please let me know. Also keep in mind that we had no water earlier this year for over 18 hours from Gem State. Bad service shouldn't be rewarded. Earger to hear your thoughts."

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