

From: [PUCWeb Notification](#)
To: [Jan Noriyuki](#)
Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb
Date: Friday, August 12, 2022 11:00:08 AM

The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Gary Pfahler
Submission Time: Aug 12 2022 10:53AM
Email: garypfahler@me.com
Telephone: 208-518-7300
Address: 34065 N Hayden Dr
Spirit Lake, ID 83869

Name of Utility Company: Gem State

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "The proposed rate increase for water rates are unreasonable and too high. I , and many residents in Spirit Lake East are retired and on fixed incomes, a 69% is not a good faith assessment on homeowners . Please reconsider the increased rate proposal."

From: [PUCWeb Notification](#)
To: [Jan Noriyuki](#)
Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 4:00:06 PM

Name: Darrell Richardson
Submission Time: Aug 11 2022 3:15PM
Email: dhrichar@gmail.com
Telephone: 208-216-9354
Address: 32093 N. Tahoe Dr.
spirit lake, ID 83869

Name of Utility Company: Gem State Water Company

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "Dear Sir/Madam, It's been a while since The Gem State Water Co (GMS Co) last increased it's rates. I can't remember what year it was so for the purposes of this I'm going to guess it's been 5 years. They probably are due a rate increase and given inflation it makes sense. However the proposed rate increases are wildly larger than inflation. From the internet inflation calculators, cumulative inflation since 2017 seems to have been about 15% to 20%. The income received by GMS Co is supposed to provide maintenance, improvements, and running expenses. There is nothing in the letter sent to us pointing to a prudently unforeseeable situation justifying any rate increase beyond that to cover inflation. This rate request will be particularly hard on fixed income people. Over the past 5 years I have been fortunate to get raises for a cumulative 17%, meaning I have just kept up with inflation. I don't understand why I should pay more than the same percentage of my income to a monopoly not providing increased benefits as requested/approved by their clientele. Please provide for a rate increase to cover inflation, but no more. Thank you. "

Name: Ossie Rhash
Submission Time: Aug 11 2022 3:26PM
Email: ccrhash@yahoo.com
Telephone: 208-667-7719
Address: 4930 Ezy Street
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83815

Name of Utility Company: Gem State

Case ID: GSW-W-22-01

Comment: "We are on fixed income SS and we object to a 68% for our water bill. Thank you"

August 9, 2022

In 2007 our water bill base was about \$12.00 a month and we had an allowed amount of 12 (units of measure?) with that. We moved here to retire and have our set income planned. Then in 2014 a new company had taken over our water company and raised (DOUBLED) the base to 25.55 plus a lower base usage which is now down to 10.7 and a higher cost if you went over that. When your people came up here to help "mediate"???, the one lady just said they never promised us a yard that could be watered!!! We have a lot of people here with animals and gardens, which your PUC people said we are not entitled to any of that!! I use a lot of water just helping clean and maintain 10.55 acres. At the time of the last proposed increase GEM STATE claimed that they needed it to fix and upgrade equipment. Well, what is it for now?? How much profit is this company making at our expense? This is, basically, a public utility, and last time the PUC told us that they really had no say in it anyway???? We are in recession in case you did not hear about it. I would love to see the books on how much profit this company is making off of us. And on the letter, why didn't GEM STATE just use the base rate as the current rate? To make it confusing. Either way, they are, like a lawyer, asking for a high amount of 69% increase which is outrageous to probably hope to get some lower yet still high amount that we will then think is better than 69%. We had more rain and water than ever this past year, and let me remind you, in the snow, we use hardly any extra water 7 TO 8 MONTHS OF EACH YEAR!! We deal with the snow and get punished financially in the few summer months that we do need to use it. They want to make up for what they did not get all the other months!! Somebody please put a stop to this. I would like to have the info on how many units people in regular homes/properties are allowed to use before being penalized, especially down in the southern (Boise) area where they use more water all year...send me those numbers. I would be interested. You cannot just go by household either, land has to be included. You just allow them them to keep chipping away at our Meager Idaho Incomes. And thanks for the SHORT NOTICE!!

Sincerely,

GSW-W-22-01

Michael "Ron" and Jana Anello

35415 N. Saint Joe Drive

Spirit Lake, Idaho 83869

208-623-5859

*Work email
janalie.anello@dhw.idaho.gov
home
coachanello@aol.com*

RECEIVED
2022 AUG 12 AM 9:27
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

RECEIVED

2022 AUG 12 AM 9:27

To: Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Comment on proposed rate increase on the monthly water bill by Gem State Water Company. Please do not approve rate increase at this time. They are asking for a 69% rate increase on my water bill in a time when our economy is in a recession. Gas prices are at a all time high, groceries along with all services. How can you and Gem state even consider raising rates during this time? Why and how do they justify/need a 28% - 135% increase depending on area.

V/R

Mike Michael

SLE (Spirit lake East)

Lot 197

Spirit Lake Idaho, 83869



Gem State Water Company Files General Rate Case

P.O. Box 3388
Coeur D'Alene ID 83816

1-877-755-9287
gemstate-water.com

Coeur D'Alene, ID -- On July 21, 2022 -- Gem State Water Company filed an application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) for a proposed general rate increase to become effective September 1, 2022. The filing is subject to public review and a Commission decision before it can take effect.

Gem State Water Company seeks approval to increase rates to recover the current cost of operating and maintaining the water systems, which have escalated in recent years, prudently incurred system improvements, and recent investments to replace aging infrastructure required to provide water service to customers.

If approved the proposed increase would increase the Company's total annual revenues by \$402,000, or 69.9%. The table below shows the current and proposed typical monthly bill and proposed increase for customers using an average of 15,000 gallons.

System	Current	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	% Change
Spirit Lake East (including customers formerly of Lynnwood Estates Subdivision)	Spirit Lake East	\$41.86	\$70.70	69%
	Lynnwood Estates Subdivision	\$35.00	\$70.70	102%
Bar Circle "S" (including customers formerly of Diamond Bar)	Bar Circle "S"	\$40.48	\$51.95	28%
	Diamond Bar	\$52.02	\$51.95	0%
Bitterroot (including customers formerly of Rickel and Happy Valley)	Bitterroot	\$21.00	\$49.25	135%
	Rickel	\$30.00	\$49.25	64%
	Happy Valley	\$27.00	\$49.25	82%
Troy Hoffman	Troy Hoffman	\$33.10	\$55.75	68%

A copy of the application is available for review at Gem State Water Company's office located at 250 Northwest Blvd. Suite 203, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, 83814. 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. Please send any comments or question to either Gem State Water Company or the Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
(800) 432-0369

Gem State Water Company
PO Box 3388
Coeur D'Alene, ID 83816
(877) 755-9287

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. GSW-W-22-01 in all correspondence.