**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb

**Date:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 7:00:08 AM

## The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Katholyn Howell

Submission Time: Mar 4 2023 5:09PM

Email: katholynh@gmail.com Telephone: 208-569-3467

Address: 459 South Holmes Ave.

Shelley, ID 83274

Name of Utility Company: Island Park Water

Case ID: ISL-W-23-01

Comment: "Over the years we have had issues with the Island Park Water Company. We have reported concerns to the company on a number of occasions with no response. We have delt primarily with Dorthy McCarty. On one occasion when our main line was leaking, we had notified the company of the issue but were ignored so we contacted who we thought was the company representitive for repairs in our area for help. He immediately acted and was repairing the issue. Dorthy showed up and was quite unpleasant because the water had been turned off without notification. She then explained that we were required to move our shut off valve so that it would be easily accessed and that a meter was required. We had already made arrangements for the valve to be moved but because of her demand to turn the water on immediately and the meter issue we decided to wait and informed Dorthy that if access to our valve was necessary we would be glad to give it to her. Her attitude towards us was unprofessional to say the least. Like others we have not been given notice of water shut offs in the past but we are aware that emegencies happen. We have been double billed a few times but upon providing proof of payment those have been rectified. We reported a constant leak at a neighbors main shut off valve and nothing was done by the company. Rules and regulations have never been clear with this company. Individuals don't know what to believe and what not to believe. Inforcement of clear regulations are not consistant. Updates to the system are very very few or no exsistant. "

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Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb

**Date:** Sunday, March 5, 2023 11:00:09 AM

## The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Nancy Rumsey

Submission Time: Mar 5 2023 10:43AM Email: hookedonyellowstone@outlook.com

Telephone: 801-808-0392 Address: 5162 Jones Drive Island Park, ID 83429

Name of Utility Company: Island Park Water Company

Case ID: ISL-W-23-01

Comment: "We purchased our home in the Valley View Subdivision in July of 2018. We have had nothing but problems with Dorothy and the Island Park Water Company. We would love to be able to use our home year round but inevitably every year our lines freeze, break and that is not possible. We reach out IPWC and are continually told "that's just the way it is", "the system is not a year round system, it may freeze, you just have to wait for it to unthaw in the spring". Every spring, we have a major break in a line somewhere. Homeowners are always the ones out walking the roads trying to find the breaks and report them to IPWC. They are never fixed in a timely manner and there have been several times when our wells have gone down completely and she has asked the homeowners to look at them, try to fix them but then threatened us with trespassing and vandalism the next day. When line breaks are finally repaired she has then tried to asses the homeowners for the cost of repairs. Over the fourth of July last year the entire subdivision was without water for over two weeks because of several line breaks and issues with the wells. Dorothy blamed the lack of water on a 1200 year drought and told us our wells were drying up. Telling us when it did eventually happen we were basically out of luck. She also accused my husband and I of using all the water because we own a vacation rental property (5 months of the year). Even going so far as to say she brought in an engineer who was able to determine "our home was the direct correlation to the lack of water". At this point, she sent out a notice to the subdivision restricting us to only 4 people allowed in our homes and threatening fines and penalties if we were caught breaking the rules. She imposed laundry restrictions, telling us to remove washing machines and at one point tell us we had to take our laundry off site and at least ten miles from our home to wash it. She then started telling neighbors to take pictures of my home and how many cars were parked in my driveway and report it to her. Several times she text me telling me she had received pictures that would prove I had more than 4 people and changed the number allowed to 2 people and she would impose penalties for violating this rule. She has threatened to have the city pull my rental permit claiming my home is considered a commercial property and she does not have to supply water to us. She has told us we will be required to install our own water meters to monitor our water usage (at our expense), install water tanks and pay to have water brought in, drill our own well, and that the \$280 water tariff we pay yearly "is not a guarantee of water but rather a convenience if water is available". Upon repeated questioning of her ability to run and maintain our system I was told "the issue is to comply, not to argue". I have been told numerous times that I am the source of contention and problems in our

neighborhood because our home takes all of the water from others in the subdivision and accused of trying to re-route the well. How would I even know how to do that?? When water was restored to our home, we had sand in our toilets and sinks and unbeknownst to us, our dishwasher pump had burned up and when the dishwasher was used it flooded our home. We had to move our VRBO guests out of the house and the restoration company spent almost 3 weeks repairing the water damage. Never one time have we received a water boil notice when water is finally restored. Ironically the past December, it was reported to Dorothy that the pump to waste was open on our upper well but she refused to do anything about it saying "that shows the pump is running and the well is working properly". She refused to allow homeowners to simply turn it off, again threatening us with trespassing and vandalism" while did nothing for over a month, wasting millions of gallons of water after everything she had just put us through that summer. A water line break was reported to her in September of last year and to this minute that break has still not been repaired. She has continually fought to not have our system made a public water system and have it regulated by DEQ and recently, we received a letter stating "due to the new status of becoming a public water system, DEQ is requiring the water to be tested every month this year. This is challenging and anticipate this will not happen"... "We anticipate that every 90 days or sooner you will receive a notice of non-compliance due to the inability to have access to take the water test, per DEQ rules. Unfortunately, we have no other choice". She is already in violation for not testing in february. Dorothy McCarty is a bully and a liar who should never be allowed to own and operate a public utility company and will only continue to threaten and retaliate against homeowners. I have addressed these issues with her multiple times and can submit all texts as evidence to support the above claims."

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**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb

**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 1:00:08 PM

## The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Jane Charnock

Submission Time: Mar 6 2023 12:22PM

Email: jrcharnock@me.com Telephone: 208-520-0542 Address: 2350 Belmont Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Name of Utility Company: Island Park Water co

Case ID: ISL-W-23-01

Comment: "We purchased property in Shotgun in August 2017 through an unconventional method. We rec'd a bill August 2018 for \$884.80 from IPWC for past due water. The bill stated that several statements had been mailed to our address and nothing was returned as nondeliverable. I called Dorothy and explained we had not ever rec'd any mail other than this. The letter states we owe \$760 plus \$124.80 in late fees. She said it was probably the post office and she would waive the late fees. I asked her to send me the previous bills so I could see the charges. She said she couldn't do that. She said the total is in the letter & she does not have an itemization. I said we weren't even aware we owed so would appreciate an itemization. She again said she doesn't have one. Her attitude and demeanor changed at this point & she became very short and quick to get off the phone. Dorothy called a few days later saying we owed a \$200 hook-up fee and \$280 for 2017 and 2018 & she sent the bills to our address. I advised again that we have not received anything aside from this letter we are discussing. I again asked her to send me copies of the bills and she said no, they do not keep copies. I said look, we need water. We will pay what we rightfully owe. I said this is a rural area, we thought we were on a private well. The water was ON when we bought this property so we had no reason to believe we needed your service. There was no title company involved in the sale and there was no acknowledgment or contract for services. She then told me that as a courtesy, she waived all the late fees. I repeated again to please just see an itemization of what we were being charged. She then said she could charge me whatever - she could charge me an \$1100 illegal hookup fee if I wanted to argue or send a notice to disconnect or just cut the spigot. I asked her if that was a threat - she did not answer. I asked again to please send or email me an itemization. She said she couldn't do it today - she was heading to Island Park right now. I spoke with the IPUC at this point and was advised how to handle the situation. We paid \$280 for 2017 and 2018. We did not pay the \$200 hookup fee because the property already had service. There was pre-existing water and the hookup fee was unwarranted. I received our 2019 yearly water tariff bill in February 2019. It stated we owed \$480 - (\$280 for 2019 water and a past due connect fee of \$200). Every subsequent bill has placed strict conditions and stipulations on water usage. I have copies of everything from IPWC for reference. Throughout all summer last year (2022), our water smelled so horrible that we did not want to use it. It smelled like sulfur and metal. "

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From: Jon Kruck
To: Jan Noriyuki

**Subject:** FW: Notice: A complaint was submitted to PUCWeb

**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 1:11:59 PM

From: PUCWeb Notification < Do. Not. Reply@puc.idaho.gov>

Sent: Saturday, March 4, 2023 11:00 AM

**To:** ConsumerComplaintsWeb < ConsumerComplaintsWeb@puc.idaho.gov>

Subject: Notice: A complaint was submitted to PUCWeb

The following complaint was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Desarai Parks

Submission Time: Mar 4 2023 10:47AM

Email: desarai\_parks@yahoo.com

Telephone: 208-604-6465 Address: 4083 Winchester Island Park, ID 83429

Name of Utility Company: Island Park Water

Contacted Utility: Yes

Comment: "Case number ISL-W-23-01My husband and I bought our cabin back in 2012. For the first few years we fought with Island Park Water Company over them using our driveway to access the well (as it's partially on our property when the well has its own property and a road could be built in it). She argued that they could not build a road because the water lines from the well were to shallow to drive over. We had to threaten to get a lawyer involved, put a gate up and lock it(she said we would have to give her a key for access to the well which is not true). She finally agreed after alot of back and forth that the water company would maintain that driveway for the use if it. However she only done it once. Our well has been down several times in 2022. Instead if replacing the old equipment they continue to just throw bs at it in hopes it stays working. The breakers have broke and she wanted my husband to fix it. Everything seems out dated and has not been addressed. I have heard the things she has said to our neighbors. Trying to get money out of them for things they didn't do. Shut their water off because she felt she had the authority to do so when these people just bought the property. Our neighbors across from us but the property I want to say in 2015 or 2016. This property already had water on it and she accused them of putting in water valve and tried to charge them an abundance amount of money. The neighbors to the south of us had the land for several years and Dorothy came in and tried to get them to pay several years of back pay. Things need to change.. especially honesty and us as customers do not feel ripped off, bullied, or taken advantage of."

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**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb

**Date:** Monday, March 6, 2023 5:00:07 PM

## The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Patty Laritz-Bithell

Submission Time: Mar 6 2023 4:48PM

Email: patty@ipidaho.com Telephone: 208-860-4846

Address: 3815 Great Grey Owl #621

Island Park, ID 83429

Name of Utility Company: Island Park Water Co.

Case ID: ISL-W-23-01

Comment: "I'm a local real estate agent in Island Park. I have text from Dorothy regarding price gouging with my clients. I have four clients that have been overcharged, charged for no water connection and paid. Held a closing for ransom of \$2k because Dorothy didn't have a record of the water being connected years before my client purchased the property. Told a lending institute a property she serves didn't have year round water, when it did because she didn't like the buyer. They were an FHA buyer and one of the conditions of the loan is to have full time running water. Told another buyer it was \$1700 to connect a stubbed line when according to the tariffs it's \$200. If you need documentation, please reach out. I have sent emails to the affected clients in hopes they add to this claim."

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