

Idaho Water Utilities

The commission regulates about 30 privately held water systems, or only about 1 percent of the approximate 2,100 water systems in the state. The regulated systems vary in size from companies with about 85,000 customers to companies with as few as 22 customers. These companies provide industrial, commercial and residential customers throughout the state with drinking water as well as water for irrigation, recreation and manufacturing. Most of the unregulated systems are operated by homeowner associations, water districts, co-ops and cities.

United Water Idaho, Brian subdivision homeowners, seek commission approval of United Water takeover

Case No. UWI-W-14-01, Order No. 33154

(Nov. 10, 2014) – United Water Idaho and the Brian Subdivision Water Users Association are asking the Commission to approve an application that would allow United Water to connect to and take over operation of Brian Water’s domestic water system.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission was still processing the case at year’s end.

Brian Water serves 46 customers along Warm Springs Avenue near the intersection of U.S. Highway 21 just east of the Boise city limits. United Water Idaho provides service to about 85,000 customers in the Boise metropolitan area.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality is requiring Brian Water to eliminate contaminants from its domestic water system. The most feasible way of doing that, according to the applicants, is to connect to

United Water’s system. Brian Water is currently operated by a not-for-profit association of homeowners, which supports the proposed application.

Applicants estimate the project, which includes extending United Water pipelines and replacing existing meters and service lines for 46 homes, will cost \$1.35 million. The applicants propose that Brian Water customers pay for 10 percent of the pipeline costs and all of the costs for service line and meter replacement. The Brian Water portion of the expense would be paid by a \$124.86 surcharge on Brian Water customer bills every two months for 10 years. Customers may also choose to pay the surcharge with a one-time payment.

United Water’s customers’ portion of the 90 percent of the pipeline extension costs -- \$1.2 million – plus Allowance for Funds Using During Construction (AFUDC) and a return on investment would be deferred for proposed recovery in rates after the company’s next general rate case.