

WATER

Regulated Water Companies

Company	Customers	Nearest City / Town
Algoma Water System	27	Sagle
Aspen Creek Water Co., Inc.	72	Fish Haven
Atomic Water Works	41	Atomic City
Capitol Water Corporation	3,016	Boise
CDS Stoneridge Utilities LLC	366	Blanchard
Falls Water Co., Inc.	7,749	Ammon/Rigby
Gem State Water Company, LLC	1,043	Coeur d'Alene
Grouse Point Water Company, LLC	48	Kuna
Island Park Water Company, Inc.	343	Island Park
Kootenai Heights Water System, Inc.	11	Kootenai
Mayfield Springs Water Company, Inc.	101	Kuna
North Star Water, LLC	12	Caldwell
Picabo Water System LLC	42	Picabo
Rocky Mountain Utility Company, Inc.	124	Rigby
Schweitzer Basin Water LLC	471	Sandpoint
Schweitzer Water Company	566	Sandpoint
Sunbeam Water	21	American Falls
Syringa Water Company, Inc.	78	Coeur d'Alene
Teton Water and Sewer Company, LLC	319	Driggs
Valiant Idaho, LLC	148	Sandpoint
Veolia Water Idaho Inc.	106,412	Boise
VP, Incorporated	74	Sandpoint

Water Press Releases from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2024

Algoma Water System

Commission approves northern Idaho water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application submitted by Algoma Water System to increase residential and commercial rates it charges to provide water service.

Residential customers will pay \$54.00 per month, and commercial customers will pay \$89.00 per month. Algoma provides water service to 22 residential and 5 commercial customers in the Sagle, Idaho, area. It last filed an application to change rates more than 15 years ago.

The utility said the additional revenue is needed to cover expenses and costs associated with maintaining and operating the system. The commission noted in its approval of the application that the change in monthly rates will allow Algoma to meet its obligation to provide safe and reliable service while providing the utility an opportunity to earn an 11 percent return rate on equity.

Additional information is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7027.

Atomic Water Company

Commission approves certificate for eastern Idaho water utility to provide water service to Atomic City

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a certificate of public convenience and necessity that will allow Atomic Water Company to provide water service in the unincorporated town of Atomic City, Idaho.

In addition to approving the certificate, the commission approved rates that will allow Atomic Water to collect an annual revenue requirement of \$17,096.

Atomic Water will charge residential customers a monthly rate of \$55.00 and commercial customers a monthly rate of \$123.00. Atomic Water provides service to about 31 customers in Atomic City. Prior to Atomic Water buying the water system, Bingham County operated it following the disincorporation of Atomic City.

Additional information is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6981.

Aspen Creek Water Co. Inc.

Commission sets intervenor deadline in case regarding water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an Oct. 4 deadline for parties to intervene in an application from Aspen Creek Water Co., Inc. to increase its rates and non-recurring charges.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

Aspen Creek Water is a regulated water corporation that serves 73 unmetered customers in the Aspen Creek Estates and Aspen Creek Meadows subdivisions in Fish Haven, Idaho, in Bear Lake County. The utility is seeking commission approval to increase the rate for water service to \$134.00 each month. Aspen Creek Water also is seeking commission approval to charge between \$500 and \$7,505 for new connections, depending on the type of connection required. The commission may approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until Oct. 4, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to secretary@puc.idaho.gov to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on Aspen Creek Water's application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7404.

Capitol Water

Customer hearing scheduled on Boise water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a customer hearing on Nov. 1 to take testimony on an application from Capitol Water to increase the rates it charges to offer service to customers.

The utility provides water to residential, commercial and private fire protection customers in Boise. Rates were previously changed fifteen years ago, and the utility is seeking approval from the commission to increase monthly rates by instituting a service charge of \$5.12. That amount represents an increase of 24.61 percent for customer bills. Capitol Water said the increase will help recover expenses related to infrastructure maintenance, meter reading, customer service, administrative costs and other fixed operational costs that do not vary with usage levels.

The commission can approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

The customer hearing will be Friday, Nov. 1, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. (MDT) or after all testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, in Boise. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony for the record. Those interested in listening to the hearing can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2870 913 0823 when prompted.

The commission is accepting written comments on Capitol Water's application until Oct. 24, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer

access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Capitol Water and the city of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the city of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279.

Commission will host customer hearing to take testimony on water district application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is hosting a customer hearing on Aug. 22 to take testimony on an application from Capitol Water to increase rates.

Capitol Water is seeking commission approval to increase customer rates by adding a monthly customer charge of \$5.12 for all residential, commercial and private fire protection services. If approved, the change would result in an increase in Capitol Water’s annual revenues of approximately \$174,068. The utility is asking that the change in rates and charges go into effect on April 1, 2024.

The customer hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time and end at 8:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise.

A workshop sharing information on the application was held on July 10.

Written comments on Capitol Water’s application are being accepted until Aug. 21, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission’s website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below.

Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279.

Commission directs water corporation to follow approved rates when charging customers

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued an interlocutory order directing the Capitol Water Corporation to ensure its customers are properly charged the rates set for in its approved tariff.

An interlocutory order was issued because Capitol Water has an open rate case before the commission. The order directs Capitol Water to follow the rates set forth in its tariff while the general rate case proceeds.

While examining Capitol Water's financial records for the general rate case, commission staff discovered information that the company may have incorrectly billed metered customers who used more water than their monthly minimum allotment of water since 2022. Commission staff indicated the billing issue potentially affected up to approximately 277 customers in 2022, with some accounts being slightly underbilled or overbilled up to \$43 in a month depending on the size of the customer's meter. The investigation of the billing issue is on-going.

Idaho law prohibits public utilities from charging rates different than those previously approved. Based on information gathered by commission staff, the commission has reason to believe Capitol Water is not billing metered customers according to the approved tariff when they consume more than their minimum allotted amount of water in a month.

Capitol Water serves customers in Boise.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279.

Commission schedules virtual workshop, customer hearing on water corporation application to increase rates

Staff with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a virtual public workshop in July to share information on an application from Capitol Water Corporation to increase the rates and charges for water service. A customer hearing will be held in August to accept testimony on the application.

Capitol Water is seeking commission approval to increase customer rates by adding a monthly customer charge of \$5.12 for all residential, commercial and private fire protection customers. If approved, the change would result in an increase in Capitol Water's annual revenues of approximately \$174,068.

The virtual public workshop will be Wednesday, July 10, at 6:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time. Staff with the commission will present an overview of Capitol Water's application, and will be available to answer questions. To participate online, please visit idahogov.webex.com and enter meeting number 2630 691 5396. Then click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: CapitolWater. Next, please click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2630 691 5396 when prompted.

The commission will host a customer hearing on Thursday, Aug. 22, to take verbal testimony for the record. The customer hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time and end at 8:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The customer hearing will be

held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise.

Written comments on Capitol Water's application are being accepted until Aug. 21, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water's application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279.

Intervenor deadline set in water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 12 deadline for parties to intervene in an application from Capitol Water Corporation to increase rates.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

The utility provides water to residential, commercial and private fire protection customers in Boise. Rates were previously changed fifteen years ago, and the utility is seeking approval from the commission to increase monthly rates by \$5.12. That amount represents an increase of 24.61 percent for customer bills. Capitol Water said the increase will help recover expenses related to infrastructure maintenance, meter reading, customer service, administrative costs and other fixed operational costs that do not vary with usage levels.

The commission can approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until Friday, April 12, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to secretary@puc.idaho.gov to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on Capitol Water's application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279.

CDS Stoneridge Utilities

Commission schedules customer hearings to take testimony on northern Idaho water utility proposed rate increase

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has scheduled two customer hearings in October to take testimony on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC to increase the rates and charges for providing water to customers.

The utility serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, the utility is asking for commission approval to increase rates for customers by an average of 261 percent.

Testimony submitted at the customer hearings will become part of the record.

The first customer hearing will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, starting at 5:00 p.m. (PDT) and ending at 8:00

p.m. (PDT) or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Blanchard Community Center, 685 Rusho Lane, Blanchard, Idaho, 83804. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing over the phone can do so by calling 1-415-655- 0001 and enter meeting number 2632 798 5543 when prompted.

The second hearing will be Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. (PDT) and ending at 1:00 p.m. (PDT) or after all customer testimony has been received, whichever comes first. The hearing will also be held at the Blanchard Community Center, 685 Rusho Lane, Blanchard, Idaho, 83804. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing over the phone can do so by calling 1-415-655- 0001 and enter meeting number 2634 555 0776 when prompted.

The commission is accepting written comments on the utility's application until Oct. 2, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWS-W-24-01 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, CDS Stoneridge and the other parties at the e-mail addresses listed below.

Commenters should include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, CDS Stoneridge and the other parties at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01.

Additional information on CDS Stoneridge's application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277.

Commission suspends rate case filed by northern Idaho water utility

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued an order on July 2 requiring a northern Idaho water utility to provide proof it has hired an attorney within 30 days or face possible dismissal of a general rate case the utility filed with the commission.

CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC was informed by the commission that its rate case has been suspended for an additional 60 days beyond a suspension spelled out in a previous order from the commission. A new effective date for any of the utility's rates and charges, if they were approved, would not take effect until Nov. 30, 2024.

Staff with the commission and parties involved in the case expressed concern that the utility could not

adequately participate in the case because CDS Stoneridge did not have legal representation, and was not providing discovery responses in a timely manner. The order issued on July 2 requires the utility to file a notice of legal representation with the commission within 30 days of the July 2 date, and to provide discovery responses to parties in the case.

The case has not been dismissed, and the suspension gives the utility additional time to respond to discovery requests that were either unanswered or inadequately answered. In addition to suspending the case, comment deadlines set in a previous order have been vacated.

CDS Stoneridge serves customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. It is asking for commission approval to increase rates by 261 percent for all classes of customers, a monthly user increase fee for all current and future customers within the utility's service territory and a disconnect/reconnect fee increase for customers who choose to have their water turned off and turned back on at a later date.

Additional information on the order issued Tuesday and the utility's application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277.

Public workshops scheduled on northern Idaho water utility application to increase rates

Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff will host two public workshops on June 4 to share information on an application from a northern Idaho water utility to increase the rates and charges for water service.

CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC is seeking approval from the commission to increase rates. The utility serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, the utility is asking for commission approval to increase rates for customers by an average of 261 percent.

The workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 4, at the Blanchard Community Center, 684 Rusho Lane, in Blanchard, Idaho. The first workshop will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. The second workshop also will be held at the community center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. At the workshops, commission staff will present an overview of CDS Stoneridge's application and answer questions.

For those unable to attend either workshop, a video presentation of it will be posted to the commission's homepage at puc.idaho.gov in the "News Updates" section the week of June 3, 2024.

The commission is accepting written comments on the utility's application until Aug. 7, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWS-W-24-01 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and CDS Stoneridge at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the

commission and CDS at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01.

Additional information on CDS Stoneridge's application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277.

Commission issues decision on water utility's application to increase hookup fees for new customers in northern Idaho

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities that asked to increase the hookup fees for new customers that were joining the utility's system.

CDS Stoneridge asked for approval to increase the non-refundable hookup charge for new connections under its Tariff No. 3, Sheet 3. The utility said it no longer had in-house contractors that were able to perform the connections for new homes. CDS Stoneridge reviewed costs it incurred from outside contractors for new connections from 2021 to 2023 and determined it needed an emergency increase to hookup charges.

The utility provided the commission with an estimate of \$9,734.75 prepared by an engineering firm for a full install. It also said new homes in its service area now typically request 1-inch service meters instead of the $\frac{3}{4}$ - inch that had previously been requested.

In its decision issued May 20, the commission found that hookup fees recommended by commission staff were reasonable based on the record before the commission. CDS Stoneridge will be allowed to increase what is charged for a complete installation, what is charged for a tap main and installation of a service line to curb stop only and what it is charged for the installation of a meter and turning water on. The fees recommended by commission staff and approved by the commission were lower than what CDS Stoneridge asked for in its application to do those tasks.

The commission also ordered that customers will be allowed to seek bids from a pre-approved list of third-party contractors. CDS Stoneridge will be required to inspect work a third-party contractor does before backfilling excavations.

The commission also ordered CDS Stoneridge to report the actual cost, including the itemization of such cost, charged for any connection performed within the next six months to ensure there is a better understanding of the true costs associated with a connection charge based on varying installation requirements or categories for connections.

CDS serves customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area.

Additional information is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208.

Intervention deadline set in water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 3 intervention deadline for an application submitted by CDS Stoneridge Utilities to increase the rates it charges for water service.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

CDS Stoneridge serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, it is asking for commission approval to increase monthly user fees, increase the disconnection and reconnection fees and increase other non-recurring fees. The amount of the increase depends on the meter size customers have and the amount of water they use. The increase would apply to residential customers in the Stoneridge and Happy Valley subdivisions, commercial customers at SR Resort/Timeshare and MCV & Golf Course, and irrigation customers.

The commission can approve, modify or deny the application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until April 3, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to secretary@puc.idaho.gov to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on the utility's application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277.

Public comment period opens on northern Idaho water utility's application to increase hook-up fees

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting comments on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities to increase hook-up fees for new customers.

The utility, which serves customers in Bonner County, said it no longer had in-house contractors that were able to perform hook-ups for new customers. After reviewing its costs that included third-party bids for new connections from 2021 to 2023, it determined certain increases were needed.

CDS also said new homes in the area typically request 1-inch service meters instead of the 3/4-inch meter that had been used.

Written comments are being accepted until Feb. 15, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page and complete it using case number SWS-W-23-02. If filing by e-mail, comments are required to be submitted to the commission secretary and CDS at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and CDS at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208.

Dry Creek Water Company

Commission is accepting written comments on proposed settlement involving water utility

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments until Friday, October 18, 2024, on a proposed settlement between commission staff and Dry Creek Water Company, LLC.

Previously, commission staff conducted an investigation to determine if Dry Creek Water is operating as a public utility subject to commission regulation. In September, staff and the company filed a joint motion to approve a proposed settlement. It directs Dry Creek Water to amend its corporate papers to enable it to begin directly serving and individually billing homeowners and apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

The commission can approve the settlement, reject it or add additional conditions under which a settlement will be approved.

The commission is accepting written comments on the proposed settlement until Friday, October 18. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number DRY-W-24-01 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Dry Creek Water at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number DRY-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Dry Creek Water at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number DRY-W- 24-01.

Additional information on the proposed settlement is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309.

Commission extends deadline to submit comments and information in water utility case

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is giving a water utility additional time to submit comments and other information as part of an investigation to determine if the utility should be regulated by the commission.

Dry Creek Water Company, located northwest of Boise, provides water to the Dry Creek Ranch Homeowners Association which then distributes water to homes that have been built at Dry Creek Ranch. As of December of 2023, the utility was serving 381 connections. Dry Creek Water is not currently regulated by the commission, and has not been granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Commission staff received informal complaints regarding how the utility is operating, and determined a formal investigation was needed to determine if Dry Creek Water is operating as a public utility that should be regulated by the commission.

Deadlines in June, July and August have been extended to give Dry Creek Water additional time to work with commission staff and submit information as part of the investigation. In an order issued by the commission on Tuesday, it agreed to vacate an Aug. 16, 2024, reply comment deadline and grant the utility's request for an additional 60 days from a prior reply comment deadline of July 24, 2024, to file reply comments.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309.

Falls Water Co.

Commission approves water utility's application to install backup well

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Falls Water Co., Inc. to install a backup well to serve customers within the utility's recently acquired Morning View Water Co. system.

After acquiring Morning View's system and reviewing it, Falls Water said a new backup well was needed to ensure sufficient water supply if a primary well failed.

The commission approved the utility's application after

reviewing it. Additional information is available at

puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255.

Written comments are being accepted on project for backup well and infrastructure

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting comments until late April on an application from Falls Water to build a backup well in eastern Idaho.

Falls Water bought the Morning View Water Company, and identified the need for a backup well after completing a facility plan. Falls Water said the backup well is needed to ensure sufficient water supply if the primary well were to fail. The backup well and other infrastructure is estimated to cost \$300,000 to \$350,000.

Written comments are being accepted until April 24, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment through the commission's website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number FLS-W-24-01 when filling out the form. Comments submitted through e-mail are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Falls Water at the e-mail addresses below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Falls Water at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255.

Commission approves proposed settlement that will change rates for water utility customers

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a settlement that will change rates for Falls Water Co. customers in eastern Idaho.

Before the settlement was approved, Falls Water Co. had initially asked for a 47.3 percent increase in revenue collected in varying amounts from customers that are served in the Falls Water, Morning View, and Taylor Mountain water systems. Pursuant to the terms of the settlement that were approved by the Commission, Falls Water's rates will increase revenue collected by 28.8 percent, though the amounts will be different depending on the specific water system.

In addition to the 28.8 percent increase in revenue, the settlement calls for the basic charges for the Taylor Mountain and Falls Water systems to be consolidated based on meter size, and basic charges for the Morning View water system will be separated by acre size regardless of meter size. Taylor Mountain and Falls Water basic charges each increased 20 percent from Falls Water current basic charges and Morning View's basic charges reduced \$5 for each lot size. The approved settlement also moves rates toward consolidation for the three water systems.

Each system will have the same volumetric rates of \$0.64 and \$1.439 per 1,000 gallons for second and third block allotted usage, respectively. All systems will share a three-block tier structure.

The settlement also allows customers to participate in an equal pay plan option that will allow customers to flatten their monthly bills by using an estimate of annual consumption spread over the following year to create leveled payments.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7047.

Farko

Commission issues decision on application making changes to water utilities' certificates of public convenience and necessity

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision regarding an application changing two certificates of public convenience and necessity after one water utility purchased another.

In January of 2024, Farko Water System Inc. filed an application with the commission stating that the Ponderosa Terrace Estates Water System, Inc. was sold to Farko in 2016. The application requested a transfer of Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate of public convenience and necessity to Farko, and it requested Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate be cancelled.

The application also asked that the commission recognize that Farko is operating the system as a not-for-profit organization.

In July of 2024, the commission issued a final order granting Farko's request to cancel Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate, which allowed Farko to operate outside of the commission's jurisdiction, subject to certain conditions. The commission ordered Farko to submit a compliance filing with a copy of non-profit bylaws signed by a newly created board of directors for Farko, and a signed copy of the minutes of the meeting in which the board was elected.

Idaho code provides three exceptions to the commission's regulatory authority over corporations. The commission does not regulate mutual nonprofits, cooperative corporations or any other public utility organized and operated for service at cost and not for profit. Pursuant to Idaho code, Farko demonstrated that the board is organized and operated for service at cost and not for profit. Because those terms were met, Ponderosa Terrace Estates' was cancelled and the board will operate in accordance with its bylaws.

If the board or its successors decided to operate as a for-profit entity in the future, it will be required to apply to the commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7247.

Kootenai Heights Water System

Commission approves northern Idaho water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Kootenai Heights Water System to increase the rates it charges to provide water service.

The flat rate residential customers pay will increase from \$38.50 per month to \$57.65 per month. Kootenai Heights Water said the increase is needed to cover expenses that include power, water testing, maintenance and other expenses required to maintain and operate the water system. The utility's last rate increase was in 2007.

Additional information is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7017.

Schweitzer Water Company

Schweitzer Water Company submits application to acquire assets and service area of Resort Water Co.

Schweitzer Water Company has submitted an application to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to acquire the Resort Water Co. Inc.'s assets and service area.

Resort Water Co. owns two water supply and distribution systems that serve more than 550 customers in Bonner County. Schweizer serves customers in and around the Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Boundary County.

In its application to the commission, Schweitzer Water said the proposed acquisition would provide access to capital that is not currently available to Resort Water via Schweitzer Water's parent company, Alterra. The utility also said in its application that it would continue to maintain the current expertise in operating a regulated water utility by retaining the same key employees, procedures and licensed officials of Resort Water.

The commission can approve, deny or modify Schweitzer Water's application.

Written comments on the application are being accepted until April 11, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWC-W-23-01 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Schweitzer Water at the e-mail addresses listed below and include the commenter's name, address and case number SWC-W-23-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Schweitzer Water at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWC-W-23-01. Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7230.

Sunbeam Water

Commission waives financial penalties for eastern Idaho water utility

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has agreed to waive financial penalties imposed on Sunbeam Water for failure to attend a hearing and failure to comply with timely reporting of its operating revenue and annual reports.

In February of 2023, the commission imposed the financial penalties on Sunbeam of \$4,000 for those items. Since then, Sunbeam has worked to cooperate with commission staff to better understand requirements and to file information within deadlines. The order the commission issued on Thursday waiving the penalties also noted the utility has been operating at a documented average net loss of more than \$5,000 per year, and has communicated with commission staff regarding suggestions for the system.

Sunbeam also cooperated with staff to coordinate an on-site visit of the utility and hold a public workshop. Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6952.

Syringa Water, Inc.

Commission issues order directing staff to investigate water utility's rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued an order on Sept. 6 directing its staff to investigate if Syringa Water Inc.'s rates are fair, just and reasonable.

The commission had previously received comments from customers expressing concern about recent rate increases. The investigation into rates will include commission staff submitting discovery questions to the water utility, and making a recommendation to the commission regarding Syringa Water's rates.

The utility serves 78 customers along the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Kootenai County. Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7400.

Commission will regulate northern Idaho water utility after approving its application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will regulate a northern Idaho water utility after approving an application from the utility asking for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Syringa Water Inc. serves 78 customers along the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Kootenai County. Its customers are currently charged volumetric rates.

Commission staff who reviewed Syringa Water's application believed the utility was operating as a public utility, and should be issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The utility is organized as an Idaho corporation and serves customers who do not control Syringa Water's operations or own the water system. Staff also noted the utility is not operating to provide water service to customers at cost, and therefore believed the utility is operating the water system for

compensation.

As part of the commission's granting the certificate, Syringa Water will be required to address certain operational deficiencies. The utility had yet to replace a flow meter on a filter bay of the water system that was identified as malfunctioning in a 2019 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality sanitary survey. Syringa said it has purchased a new flow meter and will replace the malfunctioning one after the high-demand season ends in November of 2024.

Commission staff noted that insufficient transfer pump capacity and insufficient fire flow storage threaten the current and future reliability of the utility's system. The system has a single transfer pump that if fails, customers may not receive water. The utility also needs a water storage capacity of 173,925 gallons to meet both its maximum daily demand and fire flow as required by Idaho code. Currently, Syringa Water has 100,000 gallons of available capacity, a deficiency of 73,925 gallons. According to the Kootenai County 2018 Fire Code, the utility needs 180,000 gallons of storage capacity or 1,500 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch of system pressure.

In addition to addressing the items above, Syringa Water was directed by the commission to provide a tariff, a billing statement, an initial disconnection notice, a final disconnection notice, a notice of procedure for reconnection, a summary of rules and other information. Commission staff was directed to open a separate docket to evaluate whether the rates contained in the tariff Syringa Water subsequently provides are fair, just, and reasonable.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7294.

Valiant Idaho, Inc.

Commission determines northern Idaho water utility should be regulated

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has determined a northern Idaho water utility is operating as a public utility and has directed it to work with commission staff to complete a process to become regulated.

Valiant Idaho, Inc. owns and operates a water supply and distribution system that serves customers in a development and golf club called the Idaho Club in the Bonner County, Idaho, area. Valiant Idaho obtained the water system assets, an undeveloped portion of the Idaho Club and land comprising the golf course in a 2016 sheriff sale.

Commission staff believed Valiant Idaho should be regulated under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and recommended the commission issue it a certificate of public convenience and necessity. In an order issued Sept. 6, Valiant Idaho was issued the certificate.

The determination that Valiant Idaho was operating as a public utility and the issuance of the certificate occurred after the commission's review of the record and the nature and manner of control exercised by Valiant Idaho in the operation and management of the water system. The commission found it reasonable to assert formal regulatory jurisdiction by finding that Valiant Idaho operates its water system as a public utility.

Accordingly, the commission has jurisdiction over Valiant Idaho.

In addition to issuing the certificate of public convenience and necessity, the order directed Valiant Idaho to submit a full and accurate legal description of the company's service territory to ensure that Valiant Idaho does not overlap with that of another public utility, adopt the commission's Utility Customer Relations Rules and Utility Customer Information Rules. The order also directed Valiant Idaho to use an accounting system consistent with information required by the commission's annual report for small water companies. These companies submit their annual reports to the commission.

Valiant Idaho also is directed to submit information required under the Utility Customer Relations Rules for commission review and approval. This information includes a tariff, various customer notices and an annual rules summary.

The order also directs commission staff to open a separate docket to evaluate whether Valiant Idaho's rates are fair, just and reasonable.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301.

Commission sets written comment deadline regarding status of northern Idaho water utilities

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set a written comments deadline in proceedings to determine if two water utilities are operating as public utilities and if steps should be taken by the companies to comply with Idaho law.

Valiant Idaho, Inc. and TIC Utilities, LLC have been asked to provide information to commission staff that would help staff make a recommendation regarding their status, a requirement for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and any other recommendations regarding the adequacy of service and rate setting.

Valiant Idaho and TIC Utilities own and operate a water supply and distribution system that serves customers in a development and golf club in the Bonner County, Idaho, area.

The commission is accepting written comments on the work being done until July 18, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number GNR-W-24-01 when filling out the form. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. Please use case number GNR-W-24-01.

Commenters are required to include their name and address. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission secretary and Valiant Idaho/TIC Utilities at the addresses listed below. Commenters are required to include case number GNR-W-24-01, their name and address.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301.

Veolia Water Idaho

Commission approves water utility's application to assume ownership and maintenance of fire hydrants

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Veolia Water Idaho to assume ownership and management of fire hydrants that belong to the Whitney Fire Protection District.

Veolia Water will take ownership of the fire hydrants in Boise and Ada County over a five-year period, with 1/5 of the fire hydrants transferred to Veolia each year. After the transfer is completed, Veolia Water will have ownership and maintenance responsibilities over all of the fire hydrants in its service territory. Veolia Water said in its application that it has the financial resources to maintain the fire hydrants and will follow fire flow and fire code requirements.

The fire protection district will not be charging Veolia Water to assume ownership of the hydrants. It is anticipated that maintenance and repair costs will decrease as fire hydrants are replaced. Veolia Water can submit an application to the commission in the future to recover the costs of maintaining hydrants. The approval of the application also will allow Veolia Water to install new hydrants in areas where they are spaced too far apart to meet current fire code requirements.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7186.

Veolia Water Idaho and City of Eagle apply to transfer service for some customers to city

The City of Eagle and Veolia Water Idaho have applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to transfer utility service and some assets that serve the Eagle Skate Park, a subdivision and a church from Veolia Water to the city.

The skate park is part of the Eagle Sports Complex. The city and Veolia Water said that due to the proximity of city-owned water infrastructure, both agreed it is in the public interest that city-owned facilities within the sports complex be served by the city's municipal water system. In addition, the Bighorn Subdivision, a church and two connections from a 12" mainline will be transferred from Veolia Water to the city if the application is approved.

The commission is accepting written comments on the application until April 10, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number VEO-W-23-05 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Veolia and the city at the e-mail addresses listed below and include the commenter's name, address and case number VEO-W-23-05. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Veolia Water and the city at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and case number VEO-W-23-05.

Additional information is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7234.

VP Incorporated

Commission issues certificate to northern Idaho water utility

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from VP Inc. to grant it a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide water services within the Hidden Lakes subdivision near Sandpoint.

VP Inc. serves 74 customers in the subdivision in Bonner County, Idaho. Before receiving the certificate, the utility was charging three different monthly flat rates of \$35, \$40 or \$45. Which rate the lot owner was charged was determined when a lot was purchased or connected to the water system. In its application, the water utility proposed a monthly flat rate of \$55 for all customers.

After reviewing its application, the commission approved a flat monthly rate of \$75.43 for each customer receiving water service and not allowing a flat rate for non-flowing customers. The commission determined only those currently receiving services from the water system should pay for its operation.

The commission also approved allowing VP Inc. to charge a reconnection fee of \$50, a 1 percent monthly late payment charge, and a \$20 returned check charge.

Additional information on the commission's decision is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241.

Commission schedules customer hearing to take testimony on application from water utility to provide service in northern Idaho, increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a customer hearing on June 24 to take testimony on an application from VP Inc. to provide water service in the Sandpoint, Idaho, area and increase rates.

The commission directed VP Inc. to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity after finding it was a water corporation subject to the commission's regulation as a public utility. VP Inc. is also asking for approval from the commission to increase its rates and charges for water service to \$55.00 per month.

The commission will hold a customer hearing on Monday, June 24, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time to take testimony for the record from customers and the public. The hearing will be held at the Sandpoint Community Hall, 204 S. 1st Ave., in Sandpoint. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing without attending in-person can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2632 107 9402 when prompted.

Additional information on VP Inc.'s application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241.

Commission schedules virtual workshop on water utility's application to receive certificate of public convenience and necessity

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a virtual workshop in early June on an application from VP Inc. to receive a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

VP Inc. provides water service to customers in northern Idaho. The commission requested the utility to apply for the certificate after determining it is a water corporation subject to the commission's regulation as a public utility. Utilities are required to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity when making a change to their operations.

The virtual workshop will be held Thursday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. At the workshop, commission staff will present an overview of VP Inc.'s application for the certificate and a proposed rate increase the utility is asking for. Staff will also answer questions.

To participate online, please visit idahogov.webex.com and enter meeting number 2631 508 6192. Then click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: June6Workshop. Next, please click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "Next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2631 508 6192 when prompted.

Additional information is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241.

Intervention deadline set for water utility's application to change rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 2 intervention deadline for an application submitted by VP Inc. to increase the rates to provide water service to its customers.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

VP Inc. serves 74 residential customers near Sandpoint in Bonner County. It is asking for commission approval to increase rates. VP currently charges customers \$35, \$40 or \$45 monthly to provide service depending on the customer's initial connection date. It is proposing a rate increase to \$55 per month for all customers, and said the increase is necessary to cover ongoing expenses and allow for a 12 percent rate of return.

The commission may approve, deny or modify VP's application.

Additional information on VP's application is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241.