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Idaho Public
UTILITIES COMMISSION

September 5, 2003

**Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Commission Chairman
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074**

Dear Commissioner:

I hope you will not renew Avista's request for another year of electric surcharges. As someone who is grateful in this economy to have a part-time minimum wage job I cannot afford this continued and apparently unnecessary expense. Avista itself admits is has "increasing financial health".

We do not need additional increases on natural gas, either. I qualify for the Energy Assistance Program. Even with this help I have to leave my home during the day so I don't have to heat it. As a senior this makes my life very difficult.

The phone company has "Lifeline" for low income people, why can't we have a similar program with Avista?

Sincerely,



Marjorie Hentges

Bu
For news or stories

Avista raises dividend

Avista Corp. raised its quarterly stock dividend by 4 percent to 12.5 cents a share on the company's common stock, citing the company's increasing financial health.

The increase will result in an annual dividend of 50 cents a share, the company said in a statement.

Payment of dividends is subject to declaration and approval by the board each quarter.

Avista may continue power surcharge

By SCOTT REEVES
Staff writer

COEUR d'ALENE — Avista Utilities wants to continue the 19.4 percent surcharge on electricity for another 12 months.

There will be no change in existing rates if the request is approved.

"Extension of the Power Cost Adjustment in Idaho would allow Avista to continue recovery of power costs while offering our customers some of the lowest residential electric rates in the country," said Kelly Norwood, Avista's vice president for state and federal regulation.

The Power Cost Adjustment is intended to recover or rebate changes in selected power supply costs that differ from costs included in Avista's base rates. It began in 2001 when the cost of electricity hit record highs.

Avista is likely to file for an extension next year and the program is expected to continue through mid-2005, said Catherine Markson, a spokeswoman for Avista in Spokane.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved the current surcharge in the fall of 2001. The state agency directed Avista to file an annual status report on the pro-

posed continuance of the 19.4 percent surcharge.

Avista said it makes no profit from the surcharge and is required to absorb the first 10 percent of excess power costs.

If the extension is approved, it would apply to all retail customers for all electric charges and to the flat rate charged for company-owned or customer-owned street lighting and area lighting service.

Rates would range from 0.939 cents per kilowatt hour for up to 600 kilowatts billed on Schedule One to 0.888 cents per kilowatt hour billed on Schedules 31 and 32.

The proposed extension is sub-

ject to public review and a decision by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

The public may review copies of the extension application at the offices of Avista and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

The application is available online at Avista's Web site, www.avistautilities.com/prices/rates.

Earlier this month, Avista sought to boost natural gas prices in Idaho 2.4 percent in another price adjustment to cover costs. Like the proposed Power Cost Adjustment for electricity, the utility would make no money from the proposed hike in natural gas prices.