

✓ Gen. Ask
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✓ To A.V.

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Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P. O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RECEIVED
2010 APR 16 AM 8:12
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 12, 2010

RE: Proposed Avista electric rate increases

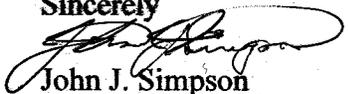
The purpose of this letter is to voice my objections to the proposed rate residential increase of 14.5% for Idaho Avista electric customers .

I find it hard to understand how rate increases can be proposed on such a frequent basis and for significant percentages. 14.5 percent outstrips any material or labor cost increases I am aware of in the recent past. Further, I don't recall reading or hearing about any reason for such cost increases that would affect Avista rates in the near future. It seems like the whole of the American business world is totally unaware, or uncaring about the **plight of the average citizen in these hard times. I am sick to death of hearing the news media report daily about the Dow Jones average or the NASDAQ and how they are going up to milestone numbers lately when everyone I know is hurting from loss of jobs, health insurance or both. It seems to me that the business world takes a cue from these reports to raise the prices to consumers on their products.**

You are fortunate - you have steady jobs with decent benefits, please do your best to investigate these proposals and make sure they are equitable. It's not going to affect your bottom line much, but it sure will affect mine. I'm lucky. I have been retired for 23 years and on an income that that is for all practical purposes fixed but I won't starve to death yet, anyway There are so many people who are scraping by any way they can and cannot afford these **highly questionable rate increases.**

Theoretically you are supposed to review such proposals thoroughly to prevent the Idaho public from unreasonable rates in the utilities industry. I sincerely hope you do the best job possible.

Since an Avista spokesperson was quoted as saying the rates Avista consumers pay do not pay for salary increases, stock options and other goodies the Avista CEO and other corporate officers receive, would you mind checking that out and let me know what you learn?

Sincerely

John J. Simpson
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Post Falls, Idaho 83854