

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. TGW-W-05-1, Order No. 29716

February 25, 2005

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Terra Grande seeks emergency relief

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will take comments through March 4 on Terra Grande Water’s application for interim rate relief and further proceedings to establish a permanent rate.

Terra Grande Water, with about 117 residential customers in southwest Boise, notified customers of contamination problems from Trichloroethylene (TCE) on Jan. 21. The company advised customers to stop using the water for drinking and started supplying bottled water. One week later, on January 28, an emergency connection was made to United Water’s system. Terra Grande customers now receive water from that system. The state Department of Environmental Quality provided funds from the Idaho Hazardous Waste Emergency Response Fund to pay the cost of the emergency connection to the United Water system.

Terra Grande is seeking commission authorization to continue assessing its flat \$16 per month non-summer charge (\$26 during the summer) plus a surcharge that will cover the billing it receives from United Water. The company proposes to divide its United Water bill by the total number of Terra Grande customers and pass the pro rata expense on to each customer equally by adding a surcharge to the existing flat rate.

Further, Terra Grande is asking the commission to establish permanent rates that are just and reasonable for its customers on a going-forward basis.

The company is asking for immediate authorization to change its rates based on an emergency that it says was beyond its control and that has unexpectedly increased its expenses on short notice. It is asking that the case be processed by written comment rather than by public hearings.

The commission will proceed under a modified procedure that allows the case to be handled through written public comments. Those wishing to submit comments must do so by no later than March 4. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission’s homepage at www.puc.idaho.gov and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (TGW-W-05-1) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

A full text of the commission’s order, along with other documents related to this case, are available on the commission’s Web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on “File Room” and then on “Water Cases” and scroll down to the above case number.