

Pull the Plug on Avista Rate Request

Idaho Families Need Rate Relief, Not Rate Hikes



Avista is asking for a huge rate increase.

- Avista has asked the PUC to raise electricity rates by 24 percent, and gas rates by 9 percent.
- Residential customers would end up paying 13.5 percent more for electricity and 10 percent more for gas.
- Avista wants to raise the monthly service charge to \$5.00. Right now it's \$4.00 for electricity and \$3.28 for natural gas service.

Avista says they need the rate increase because they're not making enough money.

- Avista is asking for a total of \$39.9 million more every year.
- In 2003 Avista made \$44.5 million in profits.
- The Seattle Times ranked Avista 11th in the Northwest for shareholder dividends, because they paid out so much cash to shareholders compared to the price of their stock.¹ Their shareholders aren't suffering.

Idaho family incomes aren't increasing to meet the rate hikes.

- Gary Ely, Avista's CEO, made \$801,696 in 2003.
- Idaho's median household made \$38,613 in 2002. That's a \$780 drop from 2000, and less than the median household income nationally.²
- Personal bankruptcy filings in Idaho grew 26.3 percent between 2000 and 2002.

Avista customers are already struggling to pay the bills.

- In 2003, Avista shut off more than 500 families' power in the spring because they couldn't pay the bills.
- In the winter of 2002-2003, 2,989 families declared eligibility for the winter moratorium because they couldn't pay the power bill.
- 4,356 Avista customers got LIHEAP, low income heating assistance, during the winter of 2002-2003.

Call the Idaho Community Action Network at (208) 385-9146 to learn what you can do to stop Avista.

Contact ICAN to Stop the Rate Hike!

¹ Seattle Times, Northwest 100, June 6, 2004, N14.

² U.S. Census Bureau, <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/income02/statemhi.html>