

# Pull the Plug on the Idaho Power Rate Request!

## Idaho Families Need Rate Relief, Not Rate Hikes!



Idaho families juggle bills and struggle to keep the power on, while Idaho Power asks ratepayers for an additional \$85 million to pay for executive perks and programs that benefit shareholders.

Idaho Power's rate increase request is outrageously inflated

- Idaho Power asked the PUC to raise its annual revenue by over \$85 million, an average increase of 17.7 percent, with a 19 percent increase in residential rates.
- The PUC staff went over Idaho Power's request, and identified ways to cut \$70 million!
- Staff recommended a revenue increase of almost \$15, a 3.08 percent increase over current levels.<sup>1</sup>

Idaho families are already having trouble keeping up with Idaho Power's rates

- Last year, 6,971 of Idaho Power's residential customers declared eligibility for the winter moratorium.<sup>2</sup>
- Last winter, 9,529 Idaho Power customers received assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.<sup>3</sup>
- In March, April, and May, after the moratorium ended, Idaho Power disconnected the power of 1,563 moratorium eligible customers for nonpayment of outstanding bills.<sup>4</sup>

Idaho Power's proposal to raise the customer charge from \$2.51 to \$10 hurts low-income consumers the most

- This 400% increase affects low income customers the most.
- There is no way for a consumer to avoid the impact of this rate hike by conserving energy – the customer charge is a fixed charge that doesn't depend on usage.
- \$7.50 can mean a meal, a doctor visit, or a missed payment on the power bill for a family with a fixed income.

<sup>1</sup> Supplemental Testimony of Alden Holm, Idaho Public Utilities Commission, March 24, 2004, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> 2003 Moratorium Information, Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

<sup>3</sup> 2003 Moratorium Information, Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

<sup>4</sup> 2003 Moratorium Information, Idaho Public Utilities Commission.