

Lawsuit:

An “Order of Dismissal” was entered by the Bonner County District Court, in case number CV09-22-0984, on 19 July 2024. During the SPOA Annual Meeting (12 July 2024), then President Nancy Richards announced the lawsuit had been settled. I am not aware of the particulars of the settlement.

IPUC Water Proceedings: There are 3 proceedings.

1. *Capitalization/Debt:* In IPUC case #SWS-W-23-03, the Stoneridge Water Utility (Chan Karupiah) asked for the Capital contributions made by Chan to the Water Utility (\$980,000.00) be considered debt, to be repaid by the Utilities customers. In an order filed 2-12-2024, the IPUC Commission denied the request. However, the Commission did approve the Utility reclassifying the amount as additional paid-in-capital and treated as owner’s equity in the Company capital structure.
2. *Water Meter Installation Increase:* In IPUC case # SWS-W-23-02, the Stoneridge Water Utility (Chan Karupiah) asked for an 157% increase in water utility meter installation fees (complete installation). On 27 August 2024, IPUC staff recommended to the IPUC Commission approval of an 20% increase (complete installation). In the past, the IPUC Commission has adopted IPUC Staffs’ recommendation.

Regarding whether the water utility is requesting MCV or Timeshares to change from its current single 6” (MCV) meter to 77 individual lot meters, here is the answer from Jeff Merkeley of Stoneridge Utilities:

“The language you are referencing in Proposed Draft Markup Tariff #5 is the same as existing Tariff #3 and to our knowledge has not changed since Tariff #2 issued during the last general rate case in 2007.”

Efforts to obtain a clearer answer are ongoing.

3. *General Water Rate Increase:* In IPUC case # SWS-W-23-01, the Stoneridge Water Utility (Chan Karupiah) asked for an 261% increase in general water rates. On 27 August 2024, the IPUC Commission held a hearing. IPUC Staff recommended to the IPUC Commission:
 - a. 2 October 2024 be the deadline for all Staff and Public comments.
 - b. 16 October 2024 be the Intervenor comment Deadline.
 - c. 30 October 2024 be the Water Utility Public Deadline.
 - d. Customer hearings be conducted at the Blanchard Community Center on 9 October (4:00 pm) and 10 October (8:00 am) 2024.

The IPUC General Rate increase proceeding has a final decision deadline of approximately 30 November 2024.