

From: Brent Ollerton < >
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:45 PM
To: Tyler Fortunati <Tyler.Fortunati@deq.idaho.gov>
Subject: Drinking Water Program Fees Proposed Changes

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I am writing to provide comments regarding the proposed revisions to IDAPA 58.01.08 governing fees for public drinking water systems.

Over the past several years, our system has experienced steady increases in annual fees. Prior to 2022, we paid approximately \$984 annually. In 2023 and 2024, this increased to \$1,200 for approximately 300 connections. In 2025, we paid \$1,384 for 346 connections.

Under the current draft proposals, the financial impact to our system would be substantial. Based on our current number of connections, the proposed flat fee structure would increase our annual cost to approximately \$2,003. While this represents a noticeable increase, it is within a range that may be manageable with careful planning.

However, under the proposed tiered fee structure, our annual cost would rise to approximately \$2,768. This represents nearly a doubling of our current fees and would place a significant burden on our system and, ultimately, our customers.

As a small system, our water fund operates within tight financial constraints. Increases of this magnitude would likely require rate adjustments that could negatively impact the affordability of water service for our community. We are committed to maintaining safe and reliable drinking water, but sudden and substantial fee increases make it more difficult to balance regulatory compliance with financial sustainability.

We respectfully request that the Department carefully consider the impact of these proposed changes on small and mid-sized systems like ours. If fee increases are necessary, a more gradual approach or a structure similar to the proposed flat fee would be more manageable and predictable for budgeting purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this matter. We appreciate the Department's work to protect public health and look forward to continued collaboration in a way that remains financially sustainable for local systems and the communities they serve.

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