

DONALD L. HOWELL, II
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
PO BOX 83720
BOISE, ID 83720-0074
(208) 334-0312
(208) 334-3762
Idaho State Bar No. 3366

Street Address:
472 W. Washington St.
Boise, ID 83720

Attorney for Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF UNITED ELECTRIC CO-OP, INC. FOR) CASE NO. GNR-E-02-3
APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT)
PURSUANT TO *IDAHO CODE* § 61-333.) COMMENTS OF THE
) COMMISSION STAFF

COMES NOW the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and submits these comments in the above referenced case.¹ The Staff recommends that the Commission approve United Electric Co-op's purchase of the City of Heyburn's municipal electric system.

STAFF COMMENTS

United Electric Co-op (United) and the City of Heyburn (City) are electrical suppliers as defined by the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act (ESSA). *Idaho Code* § 61-332A(4). The City has determined that it would be in the best of interest of its citizens to sell and transfer the City's electrical system to United. Although the City Council has approved the transfer, final approval will be put to Heyburn's voters in a special election on June 25, 2002.

For the reasons set out in the Application, the Staff believes that the transfer agreement is in the public interest. *Idaho Code* § 61-333. The Staff believes that transfer of the City's system will discourage duplication and stabilize the territories and consumers served by United. United has managed the City's electrical system since July 2000 under an Operation and Maintenance

¹ Because these comments were due on a legal holiday (May 27, 2002), the Commission's Rule 17 allows the comments to be filed on the next business day. IDAPA 31.01.01.017.

