

Jean Jewell

From: wade411@ida.net
Sent: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 4:52 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Tauna Christensen follows:

Case Number: GNR-E-11-03
Name: Tauna Christensen
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City: Shelley
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Name of Utility Company: PacifiCorp
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:
Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

When incorporated onto the grid we know that there is no such thing as wind electricity by itself, because in its raw form, wind is not reliable. To make it reliable, wind must be paired with a complementary traditional source such as coal, gas, or hydro.

Because wind must always be paired with a complementary traditional source, wind cannot replace any of those traditional sources, or reduce any of the costs of keeping them in operation, other than the cost of fuel.

As such, we, citizen ratepayers and taxpayers, request the following:

We would like the IPUC to report how much fossil fuel wind has saved (expressed as the percentage of fuel saved divided by the percentage of megawatt hours generated by wind).

Either direct savings, by reducing the fuel consumption of whatever fossil generation plant runs in parallel with wind, or indirect savings, by storing water at a hydro facility for later use.

If no hydro facilities can store water while the wind is blowing, then there are no savings. The water is wasted.

Likewise, any calculation of direct fossil fuel savings must be rigorous. It should be equivalent to rerunning the dispatch order without wind for some reasonable period of time (say, a week or a month) and then comparing that rerun with what happened in practice.

Without knowing these answers, how can the avoided cost be calculated correctly?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tauna Christensen
Energy Integrity Project