

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S)
INQUIRY INTO THE COST-EFFECTIVENESS) CASE NO. GNR-E-12-01
AND FUNDING OF LOW INCOME)
WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS FOR) NOTICE OF
ELECTRIC UTILITIES) PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Idaho Power Company, Avista Utilities, and Rocky Mountain Power Company offer low-income weatherization programs and energy conservation education programs. In recent rate cases, questions surfaced about how to best determine each utility's appropriate level of program funding. In particular, concerns arose about how such programs are to be accurately assessed for cost-effectiveness and overall customer need.

The Commission issued an Order in each case instructing the companies to participate in public workshops to resolve these issues. *See* Order No. 32371, Case No. AVU-E/G-11-01; Order No. 32426, Case No. IPC-E-11-08; Order No. 32432, Case No. PAC-E-11-12; and Order No. 32440, Case No. PAC-E-11-13. By this Notice, the Commission initiates a generic investigation and schedules a workshop to explore these issues.

NOTICE OF WORKSHOP

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Commission shall convene a workshop on **MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012 AT 10:00 A.M., AND TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COMMISSION HEARING ROOM, 472 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, BOISE, IDAHO.** The purpose of the workshop is for the utilities, interested persons, and Commission Staff to explore in greater detail issues related to the funding, implementation, and evaluation of utility low-income weatherization and energy conservation education programs. Following the workshop, Commission Staff shall prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that workshop participants should be prepared to discuss the issues, including without limitation:

1. What factors should the Commission use to assess the need of any given utility's customers for low-income weatherization and education programs? For example, to what extent should the Commission look to:
 - a. "Parity" based on the total number of customers in each utility's territory?

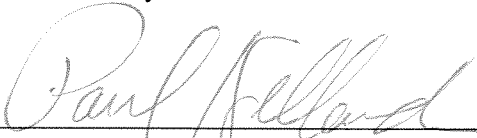
- b. Number of low-income customers in a utility's territory?
 - c. The community action partnership (CAP) agency low-income customer "waiting lists" for a given utility?
 - d. Poverty rates?
 - e. Unemployment rates?
 - f. Number of homes needing weatherization?
 - g. Number of electrically-heated homes?
 - h. Project cost-effectiveness?
 - i. Other factors?
2. How should the Commission measure the cost-effectiveness of any given utility's low-income weatherization and education programs?
- a. How similar should the utilities' cost-effectiveness methodologies, including the treatment of non-energy benefits, be?
 - b. How should the utilities measure energy savings?
 - c. How should the utilities record measure-level data?
 - d. What kinds of oversight should the utilities provide to the CAP agencies?

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that following the workshop, Commission Staff will prepare and submit a report discussing its findings and recommendations, and the Commission then will schedule further proceedings and hearings as needed.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be held in facilities meeting the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Persons needing the help of a sign language interpreter or other assistance in order to participate in or to understand testimony and argument at a public hearing may ask the Commission to provide a sign language interpreter or other assistance at the hearing. The request for assistance must be received at least five (5) working days before the hearing by contacting the Commission Secretary at:

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DATED at Boise, Idaho this 15th day of February 2012.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT




MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER



MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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