

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 AND)	NOTICE OF
ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR)	MODIFIED PROCEDURE
ELECTRIC UTILITIES)	
)	ORDER NO. 32673

On October 23, 2012, Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission filed a report of its analysis and recommendations about the low-income weatherization and energy conservation education programs offered by Idaho Power Company, Avista Utilities, and Rocky Mountain Power Company. With this Order, the Commission determines to process this case using Modified Procedure, solicits written comments on the report from interested persons, and establishes deadlines for intervenor funding requests.

BACKGROUND

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 thus initiated this generic case and directed Staff to convene a public workshop. *See* Notice of Public Workshop issued February 15, 2012. At the workshop, "utilities, interested persons, and Commission Staff [were] 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." *Id.* The "Commission then will schedule further proceedings and hearings as needed." *Id.*

The workshop occurred, and Staff filed its report on October 23, 2012. Staff's report contains 56 pages of analysis and recommendations regarding the three electric utilities' low-income weatherization and energy conservation education programs. A copy of the report is

available during regular business hours at the Commission offices, or is also available on the Commission's web site at:

<http://www.puc.idaho.gov/internet/cases/elec/gnr/gnre1201/staff/20121023report.pdf>

With regard to procedure, Staff's report recommended that the Commission process this case using Modified Procedure. Staff recommended the Commission set deadlines for interested persons to file written comments on the report,¹ that the Staff's reply comments be due 14 days later, and that any intervenor funding requests be filed 14 days after Staff's reply.²

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person desiring to state a position regarding Staff's report may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission within twenty-one (21) days from the service date of this Notice. The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments on Staff's report shall be mailed to the Commission at the addresses reflected below:

¹ Per RP 201, all interested persons will have at least 21 days from the date of the notice of modified procedure to file comments.

² In Order 32440, Case No. PAC-E-11-13, the Commission stated: "The Commission notes that it will entertain a timely petition for intervenor funding filed by CAPAI following the conclusion of the public workshops ordered in this case. Because the Commission views this case as a precursor to the generic investigation and public workshops ordered in this case, PAC-E-11-13, and the Company's last general rate case, PAC-E-11-12, CAPAI may submit a request that includes any fees and/or costs incurred by the organization associated with this case."

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

All comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Comments and Questions" icon and complete the comment form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the report has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The report and other documents submitted in this matter also are available on the Commission's web site at www.puc.idaho.gov by clicking on "File Room" and then "Electric Cases."

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-333(1) and 61-334B. The Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this Application be processed by Modified Procedure. Persons interested in submitting written comments in this matter must do so no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date of this Order. Staff must submit reply comments, if any, within fourteen (14) days after the initial comment deadline. Intervenor funding requests, if any, must be filed within fourteen (14) days after the reply deadline.

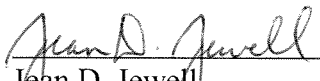
. DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 2nd day of November 2012.


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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