

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** Ed Howell  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2003 5:55 PM  
**To:** Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark  
**Subject:** Comment acknowledgement

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Comment\_description: During consideration of Consent Agenda item number 7 at today's IPUC decision meeting Commissioner Smith made the point that participants in this case should view AMR from a future grid perspective.

Recently I completed several years experience with the Electric Power Research Institute, EPRI, that represents approximately 95% of the electric utility industry in the US, including investor owned, municipal and REA utilities. Commissioner's Smith is 100% on target. The industry left to its own devices, would simply replace current meter reading technology with AMR technology that replaces current meter reading labor and their transportation costs with equivalent electronic capability. My experience with EPRI's clients, large and small, supports this opinion. The industry is certainly well intentioned. It takes small but sure steps into the realm of new technology to ascertain that reliability is maintained and errors are kept to a minimum.

However in the case of AMR, electronic technology that replaces the current meter reading assets has been proven and in use for several years. Idaho Power has been studying AMR for at least 10 years and is aware of the broad potential of electronic gateway technology and its customer empowering capabilities. Customers will play a critical role in the future grid.

At EPRI, the electricity industry sponsored research that help developed an Electricity Technology Roadmap. The Self-Healing Grid is a major component of the roadmap and all customers become a vital element in the Grid by managing their usage via advanced technologies like AMR.

In summary, Commissioner Smith's admonition to address AMR at Idaho Power Company with a view of the future grid is the most appropriate context for this case.

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