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Idaho Public
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Norman E. Anderson
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August 11, 2003

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION
OF TIME-OF-USE PRICING FOR IDAHO
POWER RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

CASE NO. IPC-E-02-12

I would like to comment on the above referenced case and answer the questions raised in Idaho Public Utilities Commission Order 29291 dated July 14, 2003.

1. The Commission should direct Idaho Power to implement AMR on its system to force Idaho Power into the use of modern technology. Idaho Power has and is dragging its feet on implementing new technology. Its current manual meter reading process is archaic at best. The thought of continuing to have meter readers driving pickups across the state, getting out of the pickup, reading a meter, getting back in, and driving down the road is incomprehensible. Forty years ago when I was a college student living in the Chicago area, the local electric utility had a system of customer self-meter reading where each month the customer marked the dial pointer positions on a post card that was mailed to the utility for billing. Having now lived in Idaho for 31 years, I can't recall any change in Idaho Power meter reading. Based on its track record, I don't see Idaho Power ever moving in the direction of AMR voluntarily, and it is up to the Commission to direct Idaho Power to implement AMR if we are ever to see it happen.

My primary interest in moving Idaho Power into higher metering technology is with respect to Time-Of-Use (TOU) pricing. Unfortunately, in Order 29196 the Commission declined to authorize residential TOU rates. I am hopeful that implementing AMR may bring about TOU rates sooner rather than later, an option that I think is owed to the ratepayers.

2. The use of advanced metering technology should eventually result in lower meter reading costs and position Idaho Power to take advantage of future smart grid options as they become available.
3. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the public meetings on this matter so I do not feel I can comment on this question

4. AMR meters should be implemented as fast as practical within the ability of Idaho Power to obtain the meters from suppliers and the time required to change out a meter. Meter replacement is quite simple (See Answer 5), and in many cases could be accomplished during the monthly meter read.

5. The cost recovery vehicle is of less importance than the AMR implementation. Although there are no doubt several methods of cost recover, it seems the cleanest avenue would be through either a temporary increase in the monthly "Customer Charge, per meter per month" charge or a special temporary monthly "AMR meter" charge. However, I question whether the customer should bear the entire cost of the AMR meter. Sometimes Idaho Power does things that make no sense. For example, I built my current house in Kuna in February 1995. I paid Idaho Power a tidy sum to provide an electrical connection including a brand new meter. Earlier this year, an Idaho Power employee showed up at my house unannounced to replace my perfectly good, still operating, only 8-year old dial meter with a new Siemens solid-state meter. The meter was replaced in minutes, and the meter guy was gone. So, who paid for this meter that has done nothing to improve the quality of the electrical service I receive from Idaho Power or to lower my rates? Idaho Power has never justified this meter replacement expense. So, if Idaho Power can replace my meter at its own cost for no apparent reason, why can't Idaho Power replace my meter at its own expense with an AMR/TOU meter that will reduce meter reading cost and lead to me being able to control TOU electricity demand?

Thank you for considering my comments, and I hope the Commission will direct Idaho Power to immediately proceed with AMR implementation.

Respectfully,



Norman E. Anderson

Cc:

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Aug 5, 2003
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2003 AUG 11 PM 3:14

IPC E-02-12 - Automated Readers
IDaho PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Automated Meter Readers

It seems to me that they are nearly automated now. The Idaho Power Employee drives in - must use binoculars & drives out, this is the house meter & costs \$2.51. He drives out onto the public road & goes about 200 feet, stops & reads our irrigation meter - without getting out of the vehicle - maybe using binoculars, or whatever they use & drives on. this meter costs \$10.07 - to read.

Why the difference? There is no lane to drive down & back up, like some of the houses built back into the fields. The irrigation water meter is right on a county road. So why the big difference in ^{cost} reading it?

Over a period of time Id. Power could pay for automated readers. As we all know the customer eventually pays for

it anyway, that is how they are funded.

The cost of pumping has gone up a lot since we had our pump installed. At that time we were advised to put in a separate meter, as it would be cheaper for irrigation, than to put it on our household meter. The cost went from \$2.50 to \$10.57 to read the meter at the pump.

As to features that should be included on automated meter readers, I have no idea. If automatic is better, it should be cheaper to read.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Kolodziej

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Phone: (208) 365-2509

cc: file

P.S. On second thought, it would have to be computerized, then you have to pay service agreement fees and watch for hackers, and the cost would raise again - oh progress!

8/13/03

IPC case # E-02-12

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to protest against the IPUC requiring that Idaho Power convert to an automated metering system. After talking with representatives from Idaho Power & the IPUC, it appears to me that converting to an automated system would be a poor & expensive use of capital. I estimate that it would take roughly twenty-five years to recover the initial investment of ninety-one million (assuming each meter reader reads 400-500 meters/day & costs Idaho Power \$5,000/yr in wages & benefits).

In addition, today's technology could easily be superseded in the future by something less expensive & more efficient. My concern also is that home owners & businesses might be required to alter or upgrade existing electric services on their homes & buildings so that Idaho Power could install the automated systems. This could be an intrusive & unnecessary expense for property owners.

As a small businessman (I own 32 rental units & manage an additional 18), I am concerned about the cost of electricity & the cost to property owners to convert to the automated metering. Spending ninety-one million at this time does not seem to be a wise use of scarce capital.

Sincerely

Terry Denkley
c/o No Artisan
Pocatello, 83204