

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
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2003 AUG 14 PM 2:55

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Public comments
Idaho Power's May 9, 2003, updated AMR filing
Case No. IPC-E-02-12

As an Idaho Power residential and small business customer, I have a real problem with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission attempting to push an automated meter reading (AMR) system on Idaho Power. It appears to be the first step leading to time-of-use pricing which will not work for Idaho Power's residential and small business customers. The cost of AMR is tremendous, the benefits miniscule. It is a lose-lose situation for Idaho Power's customers.

The cost of AMR, estimated at 86.5 million, would ultimately have to be paid by price increases for Idaho Power's customers. The break-even point appears to be beyond the life expectancy of the new meters.

The use of an AMR system would result in the loss of a multitude of meter reading jobs, putting many Idaho Power employees in the unemployment lines at a time when unemployment is already far too high.

Service outages are currently reported immediately by customers. Here in Idaho City many have Idaho Power's outage number on their speed dialer.

As an Idaho Power customer I can tell you that consumers don't want real time information on pricing or consumption. Our lives are already consumed with details. Most of us work far beyond a 40 hour week. We do NOT have the opportunity to shift our power usage to different times of the day.

If we are still living with some kind of power crisis, then let us know and we will conserve or change to other forms of energy. But don't give us another costly disaster like the buy-back programs. Think about the customers for a change. That's why there's a "public" in Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully submitted



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