



IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. IPC-E-02-13, Order No. 29176

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**Idaho Power proposes air conditioning pilot program**

BOISE –Idaho Power Company is proposing to implement a two-year pilot program that allows the company to temporarily control air conditioning in the homes of up to 500 volunteer residential customers during the summer months when power consumption is at its peak. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has established a Feb. 21 deadline for those wishing to comment on the proposal.

The company would install programmable, remote control thermostats for air conditioning units of homeowners in the city limits of Boise and Meridian. Those who volunteer would permit the company to “cycle” air conditioning in their homes for a period of up to four hours between 1 and 9 p.m. up to 10 weekdays per month in June, July and August. Cycling will be accomplished remotely by turning air conditioners off and on for specified lengths of time, or until a specified temperature is reached, or by changing the thermostat’s temperature at a set point. Volunteers will be able to opt out of the program for one day each month by notifying the company one day in advance.

The company would thermostatically reduce air conditioning use when systemwide reductions in power use are needed to prevent outages or lessen the need to buy additional power when the price is abnormally high due to supply shortages. Volunteers – 200 in the first year and an additional 300 in the second – would receive a credit of \$5 per month on their electric bill for those three months in addition to receiving the programmable thermostat.

The company projects it will be short on power in future years during times of peak use. A program like this could decrease the demand for electricity, thus preventing the company from having to build new power lines or generating facilities to meet peak demand. The program could decrease Idaho Power’s overall energy costs, which, in turn, results in savings for all customers.

The cost of the program will be about \$410,000, the company estimates, and will be paid from the 30-cents per month conservation surcharge currently included on customer bills.

The company proposes that it be allowed to solicit customers for participation based on their energy use, location, size of home or other factors aimed at creating a diverse population for the pilot program. Customers may terminate participation by

returning the thermostat in working condition or be charged \$100 for the thermostat.

Those interested can submit written comments to the commission no later than Feb. 21. Comments can be filed from the commission's Web site at [www.puc.state.id.us](http://www.puc.state.id.us). Click on "Comment and Questions," and provide the case number, IPC-E-02-13, and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to the commission at P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID, 83720-0074 or faxed to 208-334-3762.

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