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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington
Boise, ID 83702

Dear Commissioners:

I have a few comments regarding Idaho Power's proposed rate increase.

Our power company in North Idaho had everyone read their own meters. A postcard was sent each month to the customer and once a year a meter reader would confirm the customer's readings. Think of the savings. Idaho Power has about 100 meter readers, driving 100 vehicles, logging 1.6 million miles annually! A monthly check by a meter reader may be necessary for customers with more variable power use, such as commercial or seasonal irrigation use. Customers who are unable to accurately read their meters should be assessed a fee for the service of a company meter reader. It might be a real eye opener for people reading their meters to see that wheel spinning and wonder what appliance(s) are gulping all that power, which leads to my next recommendation.

There should be incentives for people to conserve power. The most equitable incentive would be graduated rates for "basic" and "extravagant" use. Power could cost a certain price up to a certain number of kilowatt hours. After that, the price goes up. Judging from the size of new homes in Lemhi County, the bulk of the customers can easily afford this. Those of us on small incomes living in small houses, who are willing to conserve, shouldn't be paying the same rates as the power gluttons. I know a lot of people retire near Salmon because the cost of living is low. But is it fair that they can afford to build and power a large home and in turn drive up the rates of the people who are already here?

We're willing to pay our fair share, but everyone needs some motivation to conserve.

Thank you for your consideration of my opinions.

Sincerely,

Peggy McCallum

Peggy McCallum
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