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May 12, 2004

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0074

2004 MAY 17 PM 4: 17

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No IPC-E-03-13

The Associated Press Report Times News Twin Falls, Idaho

Attention: President Paul Kjellander
Marsha H. Smith, Commissioner
Denis S. Hansen, Commissioner

Reference to Ida Corp estimates of growth and control of Idaho Power
from 300,000 to 420,000 customers.

Wouldn't it be nice if all of Idaho's business could have more Customers
with built in returns and then ask for big %'s of increase to off set
any expense to cover jumps in salary and other costs. Seems there is
something wrong with the managements control.

Too many excuses to warrant the people of Idaho in all walks to have to
make up higher cost of living in Idaho.

Stock holders of Idaho Power are not the only people living here and
trying to meet the cost to do so, where are the others going to get
extra money to cover any costs of Electric, Gas, and Milk for the
children?

PLEASE DO THE RIGHT THING, NO INCREASE, Tighten up their Operations
like everone else has to do NOW.

As Ever: Mervin & Audrey Randall

Mervin Randall
Audrey Randall

P.S. We estimate that any increase allowed at this time will cause
bankruptcy's both private and Industry wide across the State of
Idaho to soar.

THANKS.....

MONEY

INSIDE

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Comics E4
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Business Editor: Virginia S. Hutchins 733-0931, Ext. 242

Friday, May 7, 2004

Section E

IDACORP beats earnings estimates

The Associated Press

BOISE — A colder winter and the addition of over 10,000 new customers in the past year drove profits higher than Wall Street expected for the holding company of Idaho's largest utility.

IDACORP on Thursday reported first-quarter net income of \$19.7 million, or 51 cents per share of common stock, on revenues of \$188.2 million. That compared with a \$3.1 million loss, or eight cents a share, on revenue of \$211.9 million a year earlier.

The two Wall Street analysts surveyed by Thomson First Call had expected earnings of 44 cents a share.

But while the performance exceeded expectations, Presi-

dent Jan Packwood said in a statement the persistent drought, which is forcing a significant shift away from cheap hydrogeneration, makes higher basic rates necessary for Idaho Power Co.

State regulators will decide by May 28 whether to approve all or part of Idaho Power's proposed 18 percent permanent rate hike. The company claims it needs to generate about \$86 million a year in additional revenue to recover investments made in the last 10 years. In that time, the company upgraded its system to meet the demands of a customer base that has grown by more than a third.

Idaho Power's actual return on equity of 7.4 percent for the last 12 months — considerably lower than our allowed rate of 11

percent — continues to demonstrate its need for fair and timely general rate relief despite the fact that our operating results improved," Packwood said.

Packwood said the company still expects earnings for 2004 to range between \$1.60 and \$2.20 a share if it receives a reasonable ruling from Public Utilities Commission and its cost-control efforts continue successfully.

The January-March profit, up dramatically from the \$3.8 million earned in the October-December quarter, was due entirely to the utility's operations. The holding company's other operations, including the

all-but-terminated energy trading business, broke even for the quarter.

A winter with temperatures averaging 16 percent colder than a year ago increased demand for power both within the utility's service area and elsewhere. That boosted wholesale power sales from the company's hydrosystem over 50 percent from a year ago to above \$28 million.

Besides higher demand because of colder weather, Idaho Power also saw its customer base rise by 10,660 customers in the past year as southern Idaho remained one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Since 1994, the utility's customer base has jumped from 300,000 to over 420,000.

But Packwood said the

drought will continue to pressure the utility's operation.

After a heavy snowpack built up across the Snake River Basin through February, an extremely dry March and April have siphoned off much of that water. The Northwest River Forecast Center reported at the end of April that runoff will be less than half of normal into Brownlee Reservoir, which feeds the utility's major hydrogenerating complex.

The company now anticipates generating only about 6 million megawatts of power from its hydrosystem this year, less than two thirds what it normally gets.

That will force an increased reliance on more expensive coal-fired generation from plants in Nevada, Wyoming,