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**IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION****For Immediate Release****Case No. IPC-E-04-12, Order No. 29589****September 14, 2004****Contact: Gene Fadness (208) 334-0339****Website: [www.puc.state.id.us](http://www.puc.state.id.us)****Commission approves Idaho Power-Tamarack agreement**

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved a \$2.7 million agreement between Idaho Power and Tamarack Resort for new electric facilities to serve the four-seasons resort under construction in Valley County. The project is located in an area where Idaho Power does not have adequate existing facilities to meet anticipated demand.

Tamarack developers have already paid Idaho Power \$1.8 million for the first two phases of the project, which, when complete will include substations as well as underground and overhead facilities and lines to interconnect with Idaho Power's existing transmission system. Remaining costs for the project will be paid from contributions and electrical revenues from other new customers who will attach to the facilities to receive service.

The resort complex includes 2,000 housing units, about 272,000 square feet of commercial space, a golf course, ski lifts and other recreational amenities. When complete, Tamarack will require an electrical load of about 20 megawatts. One megawatt is enough power to energize between 750 and 1,000 homes.

Idaho Power determined that the West Mountain Road corridor was the best route to provide the projected electrical service and that the former railroad right-of-way would be part of the 138-kV transmission loop needed within the Donnelly/McCall area.

The commission received comments from some customers asking that Idaho Power bury the overhead transmission lines between McCall and Donnelly and the 34.5-kV distribution lines between Donnelly and Tamarack. The commissioners noted that this agreement deals only with the distribution lines between Donnelly and the resort and not the transmission lines along Highway 55. However, the commission said residents could work with the company and their local governments to explore methods of paying the additional expense that results from burying transmission and/or distribution lines. Idaho law allows for the creation of Local Improvement Districts for the underground conversion of electric lines (Idaho Code, 50-2503 and 50-2504). According to Idaho Power estimates, overhead transmission lines will cost about \$3 million for the 12-mile McCall-Donnelly stretch. Burying the lines will cost between \$15 and \$30 million, according to the company.

A full text of the commission's order, along with other documents related to this case, are available on the commission's Web site. Click on "File Room" and then on "Electric Cases" and scroll down to Case No. IPC-E-04-12.

Interested parties may petition the commission for reconsideration by no later than Oct. 1. Petitions for reconsideration must set forth specifically why the petitioner contends that the order is unreasonable, unlawful or erroneous. Petitions should include a statement of the nature and quantity of evidence the petitioner will offer if reconsideration is granted.

Petitions can be delivered to the commission at 472 W. Washington St. in Boise, mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID, 83720-0074, or faxed to 208-334-3762.

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