

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. IPC-E-04-18, Order No. 29614

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Idaho Power submits long-range power plan

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is seeking public comment through Dec. 3 on a plan by Idaho Power outlining how the company intends to serve increasing electrical demand from its growing customer base over the next 10 years.

Idaho Power developed the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), over a year's time and included input from industrial and irrigation customers, the environmental community, the Legislature, the governor's office and commission staff.

Regulated electric utilities are required to file an IRP with the commission every two years. The commission then decides whether to acknowledge the plan as one that meets the commission's requirements for IRPs. Acceptance of an IRP does not mean that new generation projects or resource acquisitions will be approved when companies petition the commission to include the projects in rates. All projects are evaluated for their necessity and prudence at the times they are proposed.

Idaho Power's IRP places a greater emphasis on conservation and demand reduction. There are nearly equal amounts of generation planned from renewable resources and the more traditional thermal generation.

The company plans to increase its power supply by about 800 average megawatts. The company's average amount of electricity need to serve its customers is 1660 average megawatts. The company also plans on increasing its capacity (the amount of electricity needed to serve its customers at peak-use times) by another 940 megawatts. Its current peak load capacity (reached in the summers of 2002 and 2003) is 3000 megawatts.

The long-term plan calls for the following portfolio:

- 76 MW from demand response programs. These are programs where customers can choose to reduce or shift their electricity use. They include an air conditioning cycling program and an irrigation peak-clipping program.
- 48 MW from energy efficiency programs such as manufactured home incentives, home energy checkups and industrial and irrigation efficiency efforts.
- 360 MW from wind-powered generation
- 100 MW from geothermal-powered generation
- 48 MW from combined heat and power facilities. These are typically located at industrial sites that produce power as a byproduct of their manufacturing process.
- 88 MW from natural gas plants

- 62 MW from distributed generation and purchases of electricity on the wholesale market. Distributed generation are typically small-power facilities that generate at or near the site of ultimate consumption as opposed to most electricity, which is generated at a remote site and transported by long-distance transmission lines to the consumer. Distributed generation displaces the need to transport power along the transmission and utility distribution system.
- 500 MW from coal-fired generation.

The company is also proposing a near-term action plan of steps to be taken before the company files its next IRP in 2006. By this fall the company plans to have issued bids for 200 MW of wind resource. In 2005, the company plans to take bids for 12 MW of combined heat and power and 100 MW of geothermal generation.

Those wishing to submit comments must do so by no later than Dec. 3. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission's homepage at www.puc.state.id.us and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (IPC-E-04-18) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762. They should also be sent to Barton Kline, Idaho Power Company, P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID, 83707-0070, or e-mail to bkline@idahopower.com.

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 the case number.