

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case No. IPC-E-04-26, Order No. 29665

December 23, 2004

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Website: www.puc.state.id.us

Commission OKs Idaho Power irrigation program

Boise - The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an expanded Idaho Power program that reduces the amount of energy used by irrigators during the summer months when electrical demand is at its peak.

Irrigators who volunteer will be paid credits for agreeing to let Idaho Power interrupt their power supply between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m for up to three days per week. The program was piloted last summer. Next summer, the amount of the credit will be increased from \$1.75 per kW of demand reduced to \$2.01 per kW for one day of interruption. The credit for two days of interruption is \$2.51 per kW and for three days, \$2.76. Also, the size of pumps eligible for the program has been decreased to 100 horsepower or more. Last summer, only pumps of 150 horsepower or more were eligible.

Reducing the summer peak demand prevents the company from having to acquire the needed power from the wholesale market or other more expensive sources. Power is most expensive during times of peak demand. The company anticipates that the irrigation peak-clipping program will provide about 30 megawatts of additional capacity during the summer peak. One megawatt is enough to power about 750 homes.

The commission agreed with comments filed by the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association that were supportive of the program, but also said the program should provide greater flexibility in the number of hours available for interruption and the number of days irrigators could participate. The commission asked the company to continually review the program with the idea of adding more options for participation and to file a progress report no later than Dec. 1, 2005.

Copies of the commission's order and the company's application are available on the commission's Web site at www.puc.state.id.us. Those interested in seeking reconsideration of the order must do so by no later than Jan. 12. 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.