

**IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**Case No. IPC-E-05-10, Order No. 29748**

**April 4, 2005**

**Contact: Gene Fadness (208) 334-0339**

**Website: [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov)**

**Idaho Power seeks recovery of Bennett Mountain costs**

Boise – Idaho Power Co. is seeking authority to increase its rate base to include \$58 million in costs to construct the Bennett Mountain natural gas plant near Mountain Home.

The change to base rates would be a 1.8 percent increase if costs for the Bennett Mountain Power Plant were approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. However, the company is asking that any change in customer rates be effective June 1 when the company's annual power cost adjustment (PCA) is included in rates. When combined with the PCA, the overall change in customer rates after June 1 may be greater or less than 1.8 percent.

The Bennett Mountain plant is a 162-megawatt natural gas-fired plant near Mountain Home that is expected to be in operation by June 1. It is designed to help the company meet peak electrical demand, particularly during the summer months. The plant required an investment of \$50.3 million to build, which is under the commitment estimate of \$54 million made to the commission before the plant was built. In addition, the company maintains it invested \$7.7 million for transmission upgrades and to interconnect the plant with the transmission grid. Recovery of the total \$58 million in customer rates would require an increase to Idaho Power's annual revenue requirement of \$9.4 million, according to the company.

The commission will proceed under a modified procedure that allows this case to be handled through written public comments rather than by public hearing. Those wishing to submit comments must do so by no later than May 6. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission's homepage at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov) and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (IPC-E-05-10) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

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 above case number.