

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S PETITION FOR) **CASE NO. IPC-E-05-19**
AN ORDER PROVIDING A LIMITED WAIVER)
OF UTILITY CUSTOMER RELATIONS RULE) **ORDER NO. 29834**
201.03 AS IT IS APPLIED TO TIME-VARIANT)
PRICING SERVICE.)

On June 2, 2005, Idaho Power Company filed a Petition with the Commission requesting an Order providing Idaho Power with a limited waiver of Utility Customer Relations Rule 201.03 as it applies to the time-variant pricing. Rule 201.03 requires that beginning and ending meter readings appear on customer's billings. On June 20, 2005, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Modified Procedure. Order No. 29807. No comments were received other than those submitted by Commission Staff. After reviewing the Petition and the comments, the Commission approves the Petition and grants Idaho Power a limited waiver.

THE PETITION FOR WAIVER

Idaho Power has three optional tariff schedules that involve time-variant pricing. Schedule 19 is available to large commercial customers with metered demand of 1,000 kW or more per billing period; and Schedules 4 and 5 are voluntary pilot programs available to residential customers in the Emmett Valley until April 1, 2006.

In order to implement the time-variant pricing associated with Schedules 4, 5, and 19, Idaho Power uses a meter data translation system (MDTS) provided by a third-party vendor. The Company's MDTS system and billing system do not integrate in a way that allows the beginning and ending meter readings to be displayed on customers' bills. According to the Company, it would be costly and time-consuming to modify the two systems in order to print the beginning and ending meter readings on the monthly bills of those customers participating in the time-variant pricing options offered by Idaho Power.

STAFF COMMENTS

Staff supports the Petition but recommended that the Commission approve the Petition for a limited time. Staff understands that, even though the beginning and ending meter data will not be printed on Schedules 4, 5 and 19 customer bills as required pursuant to Rule 201.03, this information can be made available from the third-party vendor data translation

system should a dispute or question arise. In addition, Staff noted that the two residential pilot programs are of limited duration and are only available to a limited number of customers. Currently, these two pilots have a total of 172 enrolled customers.

Staff recommended that the Commission allow a waiver of Rule 201.03 until December 31, 2006. This should provide the Company with adequate time to evaluate its experience with time-variant pricing programs and determine whether it can comply with Rule 201.03 in the future. Should the Company desire to extend the waiver period or seek a permanent waiver, Staff recommended that it do so on or before year-end 2006.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Idaho Power Company is a public utility pursuant to *Idaho Code* § 61-129. The Commission has jurisdiction over Idaho Power under the general authority of Title 61 of the Idaho Code. *See, Idaho Code* §§ 61-302, 303, 503 and 507.

The Commission has promulgated the Customer Relations Rules for gas, electric, and water public utilities regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (the Utility Customer Relations Rules). IDAPA 31.21.01. Pursuant to Rule 201.03, "Bills must contain the following information ... [i]f metered service is the basis for billing, the beginning and ending meter readings, where the bill is based on actual readings, or a clearly marked statement that the bill is estimated, if the meter was not actually read, and the quantity of the service provided, when applicable." IDAPA 31.21.01.201.03. Nonetheless, a utility may petition the Commission for an exemption or waiver from the Customer Relations Rules. IDAPA 31.21.01.009.

Idaho Power filed for such an exemption in this Petition for a limited waiver of Utility Customer Relations Rule 201.03 as it applies to time-variant pricing service due to the cost of reformatting its systems to provide the required data.

Given the reformatting cost, the availability of the information should a dispute arise, the Commission's support of the time-variant pricing options, and the relatively low number of customers participating in these optional programs, we determine that it is reasonable and in the public interest to grant Idaho Power Company's Petition for a limited waiver of Utility Customer Relations Rule 201.03. We also agree with Staff that the waiver should expire December 31, 2006.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition of Idaho Power Company for a limited waiver of Utility Customer Relations Rule 201.03 as it applies to the beginning and ending meter readings time-variant pricing service in Schedules 4, 5 and 19, is granted.

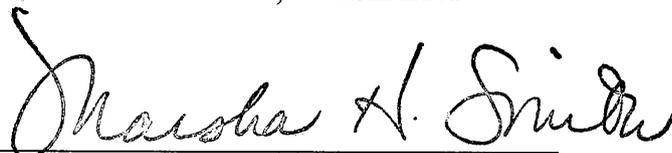
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this limited this waiver shall expire on December 31, 2006.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in the Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* §§ 61-626 and 62-619.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 27th day of July 2005.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER


DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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