

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO:** COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
COMMISSIONER SMITH  
COMMISSIONER HANSEN  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
COMMISSION STAFF  
LEGAL

**FROM:** KIRA DALE PFISTERER

**DATE:** JULY 19, 2005

**RE:** PETITION OF IDAHO POWER COMPANY FOR AN ORDER PROVIDING A LIMITED WAIVER OF UTILITY CUSTOMER RELATIONS RULE 201.03 AS IT IS APPLIED TO TIME-VARIANT PRICING SERVICE. CASE NO. IPC-E-05-19.

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. *See* Order No. 29807. No comments were received other than those submitted by Commission Staff.

### THE PETITION

Idaho Power has three optional tariff rates or 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

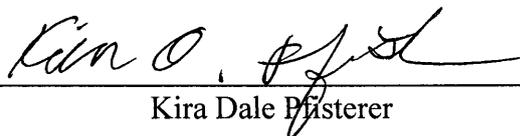
Staff supports the Petition but recommends that the Commission approve the Petition for a limited time. Staff understands that, even though the beginning and ending meter data will not be printed on the customers' bills as required pursuant to Rule 201.03, this information can be made available from the third-party vendor of the data translation system should a dispute or question arise. In addition, Staff notes that the two residential pilot programs are of limited duration and are only available to a limited number of customers. Currently, these pilots have a total of 172 enrolled customers.

Staff recommends 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 recommends that it do so on or before year-end 2006.

## COMMISSION DECISION

Does the Commission want to grant Idaho Power Company's Petition for an Order providing a limited waiver of Utility Customer Relations Rule 201.03 as applied to time-variant pricing service?

Does the Commission wish to make this waiver expire on December 31, 2006?



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Kira Dale Pfisterer

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