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IPC-E-06-21

January 8, 2007

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Box 83720
Boise, Idaho
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RE: Wind Power Infrastructure Improvements

Dear Commissioners,

I wish to voice my opinion on who pays for system upgrades to allow Wind Generated Power to be connected to the grid.

Wind power can provide a minor amount power to the grid. The grid to be reliable must continue to depend on the tradition combination of Hydro and thermal produced power. The difficulty of embracing wind power is that it is highly variable depending on the strength and duration of the wind. In the event that the wind stops or decreases in velocity, the local utility must have the ability to immediately create power to replace the power lost when the wind power stops. This is not easy to plan for.

I don't think it fair to subsidize the production of wind power by forcing the local utility to upgrade the power grid to accept wind power. The local utility and the consumer would be better off to use capital to make improvements to their system where the return on investment would be greater.

Requiring the local utility to spend capital on improvements to accept wind power simply subsidizes the generation of wind power at the expense of the consumer. Don't be duped into the "something for nothing" myth wind power producers perpetuate. They should be required to contribute to the true cost of adding their marginal contribution of power to the grid.

A case can be made that wind power producers should be required to pay for improvements to increase the capacity of traditional production. This would be required due to the problem they create when they cannot produce or cause untimely interruptions to the power grid. There's simply no free ride in the system.

Sincerely,

Jack R. Snyder

Jack R. Snyder
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