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Jean Jewell

From: jsteciak@uidaho.edu
Sent: Monday, January 22, 2007 3:27 AM
To: Tonya Clark; Jean Jewell; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment/Inquiry Form

A Comment from Judi Steciak follows:

Case Number: IPC-E-06-24
Name: Judi Steciak
Address: 4120 Edgemont Street
City: Boise
State: Idaho
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Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your question or comment briefly:

While Idaho Power should be commended for including renewable resources in its portfolio of power generating capacity, the company needs to be significantly more far-sighted and environmentally aware. Specifically, the proposed addition of more fossil-fuel power generation completely ignores global warming problems caused by release of carbon dioxide from non-renewable sources. We as a nation cannot afford to ignore the CO2 problem.

The most efficient and environmentally responsible power plant that Idaho Power can build is the one it does not build.

Better choices exist and the utility needs to be more progressive. For example:

1. Idaho Power can upgrade its contract with US Geothermal for baseload geothermal power (instead of Idaho Power trying to use geothermal for peak loads as the current contract is set up for) and work to obtain additional baseload capacity from this source rather than coal-based power. There is significant potential for geothermal power generation within the region as the IRP mentions and it is a reality in the making. Not just southern Idaho but eastern Oregon needs to be included.

2. Take inspiration from California's solar energy initiative which will stimulate the installation of 3,000 megawatts of electrical generating capacity over the next decade. Idaho Power can partner with the Idaho Energy Division, local zoning boards, the legislature, and federal programs to provide homeowners a rebate to install photovoltaic systems. In California, hundreds of private companies installed almost 50 megawatts of solar electric generating capacity in 2006. While California has a much larger population and many more rooftops, Idaho is also abundant in sunshine - and the solar systems peak generation will be during the summer peak usage hours; why build another natural gas peaker plant? All the new developments in Idaho that are causing the demand for new power generation can become part of the solution via installation of solar electric systems.

In view of California's success with its solar energy program, it is hard to believe why Idaho Power has not even considered solar electric systems in its energy plans.

3. Take a second look at biomass and partner with companies, municipalities, and businesses. Dairy factories have significant potential for methane generation from anaerobic digestion of their waste stream. Landfill gas can be harvested. Small operations in northern Idaho contract with utilities for power production from wood processing waste; herbaceous agricultural residue has been cofired with bark and wood chips.

4. I am certain others have responded with comments regarding Idaho Power's actual policy towards wind power and how it is harming small producers - the people and companies taking

the financial risk to provide the power.

5. Nuclear power? Yes, INL has a contract to develop the next generation nuclear power plant for the nation. I attended a recent presentation about this and was underwhelmed. The program is not fully funded. The existing waste issue remains of great concern. Speculating on nuclear power generation is far more risky and costly than any of the renewable alternatives.

In summary, business-as-usual with fossil fuel generation cannot continue and Idaho Power is in a position to be a leader with more progressive and environmentally responsible choices.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipucl/ipuc.html>
IP address is 129.101.170.137
