

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF</b>	)	
<b>IDAHO POWER COMPANY FOR A</b>	)	<b>CASE NO. IPC-E-06-30</b>
<b>PERMANENT EXEMPTION FROM</b>	)	
<b>UTILITY CUSTOMER RELATIONS RULE</b>	)	
<b>201.03 AS APPLIED TO TIME-VARIANT</b>	)	<b>ORDER NO. 30226</b>
<b>PRICING SERVICE</b>	)	

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On December 1, 2006, Idaho Power Company filed a Petition requesting a permanent exemption from Utility Customer Relations Rule (UCRR) 201.03, IDAPA 31.21.01.201.03, as it applies to all current and future time-variant pricing services. UCRR 201.03 requires that the beginning and ending meter readings appear on customer billings.

The Commission issued a Notice of Application and Modified Procedure on December 19, 2006, setting a comment deadline of January 8, 2007. The only comments received were those of Staff. Staff recommended approval of the Company's request.

**THE PETITION**

Idaho Power currently has three tariff schedules with time-variant pricing based on usage data collected by Advanced Meter Reading (AMR) systems. Schedule 19 is available to large commercial customers with metered demand of 1,000 kW or more per billing period. Schedules 4 and 5 are voluntary pilot programs, the Energy Watch and Time-of-Day Pilot Programs, available to residential customers in the Emmett Valley until April 1, 2007.

The Company states that it uses meter data management systems (MDMS) provided by a third-party vendor, and the MDMS is not designed in such a way that the beginning and ending meter readings can be displayed on customers' bills. The Company does not believe it is the best use of resources to modify the MDMS to enable the display of the beginning and ending meter reading on the monthly bills of those participating in time-variant pricing options.

Idaho Power states that it has not received any inquiries from customers regarding their beginning and ending monthly meter readings. Customer bills currently display the total metered energy consumption broken into time periods as well as other data required by UCRR 201. The Company states that its customer service representatives have access to the beginning and ending meter read information, and can directly assist customers should a dispute or inquiry arise.

The Company requests a permanent exemption from the requirement of displaying the monthly beginning and ending meter reading, in order to cost effectively accommodate the technological advances in meter reading and billing made possible by AMR. It states that such an exemption will allow the Company to make additional time-variant pricing services available in the future without requesting additional limited waivers.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Staff reported that the Company had previously been granted a temporary waiver of UCCR 201.03 as it applies to customers with time-variant pricing service, Schedules 4, 5, and 19. Order No 29834. This temporary waiver was to expire on December 31, 2006, and was extended by the Commission pending the outcome of this case.

Staff reported that the Commission's Consumer Assistance Staff has not received any inquiries or complaints about the lack of beginning and ending meter readings since the exception has been in effect. The beginning and ending meter data is available to the Company, and the Company has committed to provide this information to customers upon their request. Staff stated that granting this exemption will allow the Company to make additional time-variant pricing services available in the future without requesting additional limited waivers. Staff recommended approval of the Company's request.

#### **FINDINGS**

We have reviewed the record for this case, including the Petition and comments. No protests to the Commission's use of Modified Procedure were filed. We continue to find that the public interest does not require a hearing to consider the issues presented in this case and that Modified Procedure is appropriate. IDAPA 31.01.01.204. The Commission has jurisdiction over Idaho Power, its Petition requesting a permanent exemption from UCRR 201.03 as it applies to all current and future time-variant pricing services, and the issues involved in this case by virtue of Title 61, Idaho Code, specifically including *Idaho Code* §§ 61-129, 61-119, 61-301, 61-302, 61-303, 61-305, and 61-501, and the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

We find that the Company's request for an exemption from the requirements of UCRR 201.03 is reasonable. The Company's ongoing evaluation of time-variant pricing programs, as well as the use and development of the required technology is documented and discussed in Case Nos. IPC-E-06-01 and IPC-E-06-05. We have consistently urged, encouraged,

and required the Company to develop meaningful time-variant pricing programs. The additional cost and effort required to change the billings to include beginning and ending meter readings is better spent on the continued development of time-variant pricing programs. This exemption applies to a relatively small number of the Company's customers. We had previously granted this same exemption, but on a temporary basis. Case No. IPC-E-05-19, Order No. 29834. The temporary exemption has been in place since July of 2005, and neither the Commission nor the Company has received any complaints about the lack of a beginning and ending meter reading on the affected customers' billings. The beginning and ending meter data is readily available to customers should they inquire about it with the Company. We find it is reasonable and in the public interest to grant the Company's Petition for a permanent waiver of UCRR 201.03.

### **ORDER**

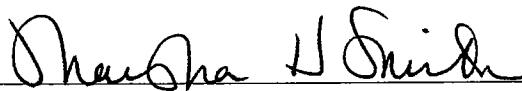
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Idaho Power's Petition requesting a permanent exemption from UCRR 201.03, as it applies to time-variant pricing services is granted.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this 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.

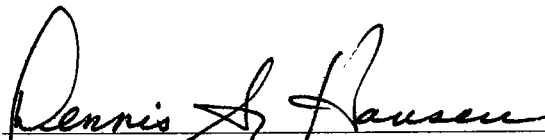
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 19<sup>th</sup>  
day of January 2007.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

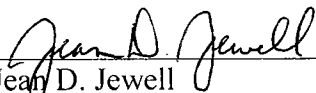


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



DENNIS S. HANSEN, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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