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sent

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2008 FEB 12 AM 8:17
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: Idaho Power Rate Hike Request

Dear Sirs,

I am against the residential rate hike of 4.7% for Idaho power and I could tolerate the rate hike of 1.37% you already approved, but would prefer -based on sound logic- that no residential rate hike be approved.

Summary:

The current Idaho Power request of 5.65% increase for all but residential and residential being set at a 4.7% increase on the surface looks fair; however, it is a very terrible assessment. The Department of Energy merely includes such rate hikes in their annual budget request to the Federal Government.

Irrigators and big business (Micron & Simplot) use the power to produce a product which they sell at a profit. They may decrease their profit margin by as much as 0.001% to accommodate an increase in power bills.

Residential customers do not produce products to recoup increases in power bills. Residential customers do not effectively have any means to offset increases in power bills.

Residential customers use power to exist, to survive, and to keep a home.

Data from the Hunger Summit of October 2006, a statewide hunger educational summit, reveals that over 50,000 residents of Idaho are on fixed income. An additional 80,000 are on limited incomes. A full 18% of Idaho's children are starving. Many of the fixed income residents are on social security. Social security is adjusted by COLA, which is based on the rate of inflation. In 2004 the Executive Branch of government ordered that Food and Fuels not be included in

the calculation. Therefore, the COLA does not represent the true inflation at the grocery store or the gas pumps. If power rates increase at all, with a recession evident, nearly 130,000 residents of Idaho will need to balance between food, medications, power, and fuel. Currently, for Payette & Canyon counties the WICAP estimates that as many as 150 residents will have power shut off on March 3rd. A majority of these shut offs will be for seniors on fixed social security income. Many more struggling families are likely to lose power during the summer when no one doubts the recession is here.

Another reason for disapproving the rate increase for Idaho Power is that the money will be used to offset the costs of extremely poor management decisions. Idaho Power has purchased land and run extremely expensive lines and towers to what are now dead ends. They tried to install various co-generation plants around the state without full approval, they have run the same lines to empty or nearly empty new housing tracts and want the public to pay for those bad decisions.

Yet another reason is that for the last quarter of a century Idaho Power could have been building geothermal plants all along the Snake River plain. They are totally non-polluting and totally environmentally friendly. The life of a binary plant is now set at 20 years.

Note: Most people think of mountain hot springs as geothermal sources. These lay along cracks in the granite plumes with heat sources as deep as 30 kilometers and will vary greatly over time with earthquakes. The Snake River plain thermal sources (over 20,000 acres worth) was created by the hot spot currently under Yellowstone, and that hot spot not only "burned" a path across the surface, but also burned a groove in the mantle meaning that within 2 kilometers -often less- sufficient geothermal power is available.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald L. Matthews". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ronald Matthews