

*Ken Ack
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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION



www.wildidaho.org

Idaho Conservation League

PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83701
208.345.6933

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

June 25, 2008

RE: Idaho Conservation League Comments on Idaho Power's Firm Energy Sales Agreement with Big Sky West Dairy Digester Generation Facility (Case No. IPC-E-08-09)

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Idaho Power's proposed firm energy sales agreement with Big Sky West Dairy's Digester Generation Facility. For thirty-four years, the Idaho Conservation League has been Idaho's voice for clean water, clean air, and wilderness—values that are the foundation to Idaho's extraordinary quality of life. The Idaho Conservation League works to protect these values through citizen action, public education, and professional advocacy. As Idaho's largest state-based conservation organization we represent over 9,500 members, many of whom have a deep personal interest in protecting our clean air, clean water, and quality of life.

The use of biogas as a renewable energy source is a relatively new frontier in Idaho, for dairy producers and utilities alike. Converting dairy waste into energy through a process of anaerobic digestion allows large-scale dairy producers to contribute to increasing clean power production and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Anaerobic digesters also reduce odors associated with these facilities. The Idaho Conservation League supports Idaho Power's Sales agreement with Big Sky West Dairy. We believe anaerobic digesters are positive for Idaho's natural resources and local communities. In addition, we are excited to see Idaho use the Public Utilities Regulatory Policy Act (PURPA) to further support the use of renewable energy sources.

The Department of Environmental Quality recently release a statewide greenhouse gas inventory that shows large-scale animal operations are the second largest source of greenhouse gases in the state. Greenhouse gases are pollution that has been linked to global warming, and Idaho's emission rates are rising faster than those of the nation as a whole. In fact, methane, the major emission for these facilities, is considered to be 21 times as potent a greenhouse gas as carbon. By

increasing the use of anaerobic digesters to create energy, Idaho can reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a key sector. We look forward to emerging research regarding the amount of emissions reductions offered by anaerobic digesters.

In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with this facility, utilization of an anaerobic digester also reduces odors associated with livestock waste. This is a benefit to local communities and improves air quality.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of this proposed sales agreement.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or questions at (208) 345-6942.

Sara Cohn

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SC' with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Community Conservation Associate
Idaho Conservation League

✓ Response sent by G.F.

✓ To Comments; H

Jean Jewell

From: anthony silvey01@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, June 22, 2008 7:24 AM
To: Tonya Clark; Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Anthony Silvey follows:

Case Number: IPC-E-08-09
Name: Anthony Silvey
Address: 85 Camp Ave, Unit 11E
City: Stamford
State: CT
Zip: 06907
Daytime Telephone: 203-918-9720
Contact E-Mail: anthony silvey01@hotmail.com Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Add to Mailing List: no

Please describe your comment briefly:

The arrangement through Idaho Power is not needed. Much of the power generated in the state is through hydro-electric and nuclear sources. Additional nuclear power plants are also being discussed as an option to supplement future growth. Therefore, the availability of cheap electric power in Idaho makes me question the motives of this offering.

However, anaerobic digesters bring enormous benefits for the community through cleaner air and wash off. However, it is the use of digesters to produce methane gas that should be promoted. Recently, Intermountain Gas was approved for a gas hike. Additionally, natural gas prices continue to rise. Our nation is already importing great quantities of LNG and demand for gas is only expected to rise. Idaho's utilities can do more for its citizens by fostering the development of digesters for methane production on large contained dairies.

Therefore, the current agreement for the Public Utilities to buy electricity from the farm should be struck down unless it is also modified to ensure the development of a methane producing digester and pipeline to the other parts of the farm or region.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 69.120.118.46
