



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 3, 2009

IPC-E-08-11

RECEIVED
2009 FEB -3 PM 2:59
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

RE: Order No. 30699

Dear Commissioners:

I know there have been other proposals submitted for how to spend the SO2 proceeds. The joint proposal put forward by the Idaho Office of Energy Resources, in cooperation with Idaho Power Co. and the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) in July 2008, is the most efficient and effective use of ratepayer dollars. It draws on the experience of experts in education to raise student achievement and student interest in energy education while at the same time encouraging Idaho schools to take the necessary steps to increase energy efficiency in the long run.

In response to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's call for an educational plan funded by SO2 proceeds, the Office of Energy Resources and Idaho Power Co. asked the SDE to help develop a joint proposal for how SO2 proceeds could be used to enhance energy education across the state of Idaho. The Office of Energy Resources submitted a letter with this proposal, created in cooperation with the SDE and Idaho Power, on July 15, 2008. The joint proposal provides a partnership to improve energy education across the entire state of Idaho with half of the proceeds going toward teacher training, curriculum development and classroom resources, and the other half of the proceeds being used as incentives for Idaho schools to create more energy efficient facilities.

The SDE already has an effective and established delivery model in place for disseminating energy education across Idaho. Under the proposal, the SDE would use \$250,000 to implement a comprehensive statewide plan to develop energy efficiency curriculum and train teachers across the state on how to most effectively integrate energy education in the classroom. The SDE would work closely with the National Energy Education and Development (NEED), a nationally renowned organization that has designed energy education curriculum aligned to Idaho state content standards. The SDE and NEED already partnered in October 2008 to host a workshop on energy education for Idaho teachers. During this successful two-day workshop, 35 Idaho teachers learned effective methods and best practices for incorporating energy education into their classrooms. (See attachment for more information.) The SDE would use SO2 proceeds to replicate this workshop across the state and reach more Idaho teachers. In addition, the SDE has the expertise and tools needed to evaluate the effectiveness of energy education curriculum in Idaho schools on a regular basis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Luna, Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction

Jean Jewell

From: TRLuna@sde.idaho.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2009 6:04 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Tom Luna follows:

Case Number: 30699
Name: Tom Luna
Address: 650 W State Street
City: Boise
State: ID
Zip: 83720-0027
Daytime Telephone: 208-332-6815
Contact E-Mail: TRLuna@sde.idaho.gov
Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Co.
Add to Mailing List: yes

Please describe your comment briefly:

Here is the attachment that should have been with the original comments sent on 2/3/2009:

Media Contact:

Mary Spruill, Executive Director
Rebecca Lamb, Program Director
The NEED Project
1-800-875-5029
mspruill@need.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Idaho Department of Education, Idaho National Laboratory, Skyline High School and the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project join forces to teach Idaho educators about energy

Idaho Falls, ID. - October 3 - Educators in Idaho are getting energized about education through a partnership of the Idaho Department of Education, The Idaho National Laboratory and the NEED Project. For two days - October 2-3, thirty-five educators from across the state attended the Idaho Energy Conference for Educators hosted as part of the state's Teacher Professional Development Conference, but allowing selected attendees to spend their time doing hands-on energy experiments, touring local renewable energy facilities, and learning how to implement comprehensive energy curriculum from the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project into their K-12 classrooms.

"I am pleased that the State Department of Education was able to bring together partners to provide Idaho teachers with an opportunity to learn about the science of energy - energy transformations, renewable and nonrenewable energy resources, electricity generation, transportation, and energy efficiency and conservation," said Mary Spruill, NEED's Executive Director. "Through this program thousands of school children will learn about energy, how it is produced in Idaho and throughout the country, and how they can use energy more efficiently.

The educators in attendance received core curriculum materials to prepare themselves and their students to learn about energy. The materials included a class-set of Energy Infobooks (student readers) that provide background information for students to create a baseline of

energy knowledge in concert with hands-on explorations. Educators were provided a hands-on classroom kit that taught about energy transformations, solar, wind or hydrogen. The program kicks off a long-term energy education initiative in Idaho designed to bring together the talents of the local community, the State Education Department, and the curriculum and training expertise of a well-respected national energy education program. To learn more about the program contact:
Mary Spruill, Executive Director
The NEED Project
1-800-875-5029

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 164.165.153.0
