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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION



www.wildidaho.org

Conservation League
PO Box 844, Boise, ID 83701
208.345.6933

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

December 3, 2008

**RE: Idaho Conservation League Comments on Idaho Power Advanced Meter
Infrastructure Case No. IPC-E-08-16**

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Idaho Power's request to install Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) throughout its service territory over the next three years. 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 Idaho Conservation League (ICL) urges the Idaho Public Utility Commissioners (PUC) to grant Idaho Power a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to install AMI technology. The deployment of AMI technology is necessary to modernize our aging electricity infrastructure and will be immensely beneficial to Idaho Power, ratepayers, and our environment.

AMI technology provides energy usage information to customers and utilities, which will help realize greater efficiencies in energy consumption on both ends of the electricity grid. This will drastically improve the impact energy has on our environment. Idaho Power will be able to more closely link customer pricing with market principles of supply and demand, which will allow for better planning for additional energy resources. Additionally, AMI educates consumers on their own energy use and pricing and will, therefore, provide an incentive to become more energy efficient in order to reduce their energy use. Improved planning by Idaho Power and more efficient energy use by consumers will decrease the need for more power plants and transmission lines. In turn, fewer power plants will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a major contributor to global warming. According to the Energy Information Administration, the electricity sector accounts for forty percent of carbon dioxide emissions, which means this industry will be one of the most affected in combating global warming. The cheapest and quickest method of reducing those emissions is through energy efficiency, and AMI technology is a crucial step to becoming more energy efficient.

In addition to the environmental benefits, consumers and Idaho Power will benefit

financially from reduced equipment and associated maintenance costs, reduced support expenses, and improved inventory management. AMI will improve network reliability and system responsiveness by detecting outages earlier and enhancing the ability to locate where an outage has occurred. Deployment of AMI technology also reduces costs associated with traditional manual meter reading and customer billing and improves the accuracy of billing information due to reducing the number of estimated and erroneous meter readings.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Idaho Power's AMI application. This is an opportunity to drastically improve efficiency in our energy use, which will lead to a cleaner environment and lower energy costs. Please grant Idaho Power a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to install AMI technology. If you have questions about our interest in this matter, please contact me at 208-345-6933 ex. 12 or at bbridge@wildidaho.org.

Sincerely,


Betsy Bridge
Energy Efficiency Associate