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sent 12/9/08*

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Jean Jewell

From: skidoohighmark@hotmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 8:12 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness; Ed Howell
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Steve Martinez follows:

Case Number: IPC-E-08-22
Name: Steve Martinez
Address: 1772 W Sugarberry
City: Eagle
State: ID
Zip: 83616
Daytime Telephone: 208-941-3734
Contact E-Mail: skidoohighmark@hotmail.com Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Add to Mailing List:

Please describe your comment briefly:
Dear Commissioners:

I am contacting you concerning IPUC Case Numbers IPC-E-08-22, Idaho Power's application to modify their Rule H Tariff. I am very concerned with the possible impacts of the proposed modifications upon the development industry as well as the timing in which they are being brought about.

First, the manner in which the timing and processing of the application has proceeded is concerning to me. I became aware of the order for notice of intervention at a very late date in the process and request an extension of the 14 day timeline for all parties to file petitions to intervene. By publishing the order on the day before a 4 day holiday weekend, the timeline for notification and action by all interested parties was severely diminished. Please do not rush such an important application through the process but allow the public to be served by allowing sufficient time for notification and response.

Second, the approval of Idaho Powers application as proposed will create an undue hardship upon an industry that has been struggling for life for over a year. The removal of the \$800 per lot refund that developers receive will put into jeopardy the viability of projects that have already been approved and financing secured based upon the expectation of a per lot refund. In the tight credit market we are seeing today, this change can have great repercussions.

Third, I recognize the hardships that Idaho Power faces in providing services in a time of increasing power demands. However, we also ask that it be recognized that the building/development industry is also a vital part of our economy that has been struggling for some time. Many of the businesses in our industry have had to lay off staff and fore go wage increases to employees. And an increase in any fees at this time is something that our industry and the market can not handle. A July 2007 study conducted by the National Association of homebuilders identified an \$800 increase in initial cost on a home compounds to a \$1000 increase in the price of the home. And that in the Treasure Valley that \$1000 increase leads to 293 people being priced out of purchasing the home. I understand the importance of growth paying its equitable share. However due to the effect that the proposed Idaho Power modifications has on home affordability I must also ask has Idaho Power also made the same tough decisions as our members have in regards to staffing and budgetary cutbacks?

I thank you for your service and for the duty that the IPUC performs. I once again ask you for a time extension in regards to the petition to intervene deadline. And stress the importance of this application and the effects that it could have if approved.

Sincerely,

Steve Martinez

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 72.24.241.194
