

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

IPC-E-10-46

R&R Farms
Raymond Matsuura
275 W 200 N
Blackfoot, ID 83221
(208) 681-8962

February 8, 2011

RE: Idaho Power's Peak Rewards Program

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

My brother Richard and I farm 2500 acres north of Blackfoot since 1986. We grow potatoes and wheat and all of our acres are watered by pumps powered by electricity provided by Idaho Power. A few of our pumps pull water out of canals, but a majority of them are deep water wells and the deepest of those are in the 350 – 400 foot range. The costs of production are ever increasing (seed, fuel, chemicals and fertilizers, and power.) We enthusiastically participated in the Peak Rewards Program when it was introduced – We saw it as a way to reduce the cost of power and at the same time help ease the demand for power at critical times during the day (4:00 – 8:00pm) when peak loads are at the highest. All of the pumps watering grain were signed up and we even had over half of the watered potato acres on the program this last year. The credits helped our operation stay in the black. With the increase in costs projected by the U of I economists, our cost are even greater this year (seed costs up 25 – 35%, fertilizer and machinery coats uncluding fuel, oil, lubricants and repair up 8-12%.) To grow an acre of potatoes, it will be close to \$3000/acre and at the state yeild average of around 375 cwt./acre, we would need to sell our crop at close to \$7.20/cwt to break even and so a \$9.00 market is what we are seeking for this growing season. Additional costs, or weaker incentives does hurt the bottom line.

It has recently been brought to my attention that Idaho Power has proposed changes to its Peak Rewards Program. After reviewing the proposed changes, I feel that this would not be in the best interest for my farming operation. Bringing the estimated incentive down from \$32/kW to \$13-14/kW with a variable credit does not make the program as attractive and it will reduce the use of the program which seems to be the intention of Idaho Power. Even with the variable incentive in place, if a hot summer were to occur, we would probably opt-out more often thus reducing the our credit even more. The proposed changes seem excessive and I would encourage you to please reject the proposed changes as it will have a negative effect on my operation and many others.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have questions please contact me.

Raymond Matsuura, Partner in R&R Farms

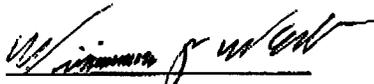
February 8, 2011

*IPC-E-10-46***To whom it may concern:**

Idaho power started this program in the year that the water levels where low. The first year was a great success and the 2nd year was also a great success and more people got into the program.

Now we have more water and people have budgeted this program and Idaho power choose to play this game and they made the rules and now they are trying to change the rules in the middle.

It was a 80-20 and now Idaho power would like to change it to a 60-40 my opinion maybe a 75-25. Who is going to pay the extra labor for turning the water back on at 8:30. This is a cost that we are not budgeted for.



William Wolfe

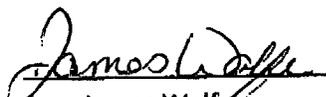
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Idaho power started this program in the year that the water levels where low. The first year was a great success and the 2nd year was also a great success and more people got into the program.

Now we have more water and people have budgeted this program and Idaho power choose to change the program this is not a good idea in my eyes. The cost for turning the water back on at a different time is not budget this year. I think the change is not a good idea for Idaho power why change something when it work good like it is.



James Wolfe

Jean Jewell

From: DSnarr [dx2snarr@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 09, 2011 4:22 PM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: Fwd: Load Management

IPC-E-10-46

Dean Snarr & Son has been using the load management that is currently in place and we have find that the saving that are earned are very helpful. If changes are put in place as proposed by PUC it would place an additional burden on irrigators and the program would no longer be viable. The \$13 or \$14 proposed changes would make it almost impossible to alter our pumping schedules. Their are costs that have to be taken into account when we start and stop pumps.

Jean Jewell

From: blincoefarms@qwestoffice.net
Sent: Thursday, February 10, 2011 3:48 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Richard Blincoe follows:

Case Number: *IPC-E-10-46*
Name: Richard Blincoe
Address: 211 S 700 W
City: Heyburn
State: Idaho
Zip: 83336
Daytime Telephone: 208-678-4731
Contact E-Mail: blincoefarms@qwestoffice.net Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

We at Blincoe Farms, Inc. started with the Peak Rewards Program from the very beginning. Blincoe Farms, Inc. objects to any substantial changes, (like those being proposed). Thank you, Blincoe Farms, Inc.
Richard L Blincoe (owner)

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 174.27.53.250
