

For Idaho Power Current Rate Case

Keep our rates lower

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Idaho Public Utilities Commission
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Boise, Idaho 83702

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Don't allow increase

IPC-E-11-08

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing regarding Idaho Power utility rates. I understand it is your responsibility to ensure fair pricing for utilities provided by companies such as Idaho Power. I have noticed that certain fees are added in addition to the per kilowatt-hour rates charged for summer and non-summer power usage and the various tiers for the amount of power used (0-800, 801-2000 kWh, etc) and something called a power cost adjustment (PCA) just for good measure. These certain fees are a monthly service charge (flat \$4.00) and the Energy Efficiency Services fee (currently an additional 4.75% of the above mentioned charges plus another fee of 0.018 cents per kilowatt-hour used .)

It seems these fees were started somewhat lower, but have been increased over time and likely to be increased again. I understand the rationale is that these revenues provide Idaho Power the ability to offer certain incentives for encouraging lower power usage including such services as removing old refrigerators for disposal or rebates when greater insulation or better windows or more efficient appliances are purchased. The argument is that this will result in enough power saved that a new power plant will not need to be built.

I don't agree with that rationale and here is why:

1) Most people who make improvements would have done so without incentive, so much is paid out needlessly. Those of us who have already upgraded our homes get no benefit from the current programs yet all customers are required to participate in funding these programs. Idaho Power in turn gets to look philanthropic with the funds collected as fees, while looking good and boasting of very low kilowatt-hour rates.

2) Penalizing those who don't take the necessary steps to conserve would be more productive. Price the power fairly and those who use more due to less conservation would be the ones with higher bills rather than everyone having higher bills with all the added fees.

3) A new power plant is inevitable and would most likely be cheaper to build now than years from now. I see that Idaho Power is also able to bill me additionally for a loss of revenue that they experience because the energy efficiency programs have decreased the amount of power sold. So why isn't Idaho Power producing as much power as possible and selling it to other companies instead of charging us more because they are producing less?

My request of you is to make our per kilowatt-hour rates more transparent. I think it is disingenuous that our rates are boasted to be low yet these additional fees are allowed. We should know what we pay per kilowatt-hour and not have additional fees. Require incorporation of any necessary fees into the per kilowatt-hour rate so that we know how much our power is really costing us. Stop the programs that currently require all customer participation for revenue while only a few receive monetary benefit. That's just welfare. Don't allow Idaho Power to charge us additionally when we do as they ask and use less power thus lowering their revenue. Ask Idaho Power to do it's best to produce power that can be sold to it's customers and the excess sold to outside power users so it has the revenue for new facilities.

Thank you,



Kay Jeppesen
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