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Commission Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
PO Box 83720  
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IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Sir,

**IPC-E-12-27**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Idaho Power Company's (IPC) filing IPC-E-12-27, regarding their proposal to change the current net-metering policy.

Whereas the request to increase the cap on net-metering service from 2.9 to 5.8 MW is necessary to continue the State of Idaho's goal of supporting the growth of renewable resources, the proposed changes to the current rate structure is an economic disaster for current and potential residential photovoltaic customers.

As a case in point, I am currently exploring the installation of a 4KW grid-tied photovoltaic system on my residence. Such a system would more-or-less meet my family's annual energy needs. After reading the public comments relevant to this case on your web site, I called IPC and asked them to calculate the economics for my circumstances, should their filing be approved. Their response was that, should I invest \$10-20,000 in such a system, I would not only give IPC my generated power for free, I would owe them an additional \$130 per year over my current rate.

What's wrong with this picture? I spend \$10-20k, IPC gets the power I generate (mostly during peak demand times) for free, and I pay them an additional \$130 per year. Their numbers, not mine.

Additionally, IPC's proposal to zero-out all net-metering accounts as of 12/31 of each year further disincentivizes photovoltaic development. My highest power consumption occurs from November through February. To build-up a credit over the summer, only to have it erased at the end of December, is a great deal for IPC. Not so great for me.

I will not go into the "avoided cost" issues at this time, but these are critical, especially for "peak demand" solar. IPC is currently paying my neighbors and me to turn off our irrigation pump during certain "peak demand" times during the summer months. I think that it would be advantageous to incentivize residential photovoltaic development and forgo the expense of the "Peak Rewards" program, for which all customers contribute.

In summary, I thought that if my family would install a photovoltaic system to meet our electricity needs, we could lower our carbon foot-print, decrease global warming, and maybe come close to breaking-even, economically. We are not intent on profiting from this investment(?). Under IPC's current net-metering policy, this would have been possible. If the IPC filing is approved as proposed, future residential solar development will be unlikely.

I petition the IPUC to hold a public hearing on this filing.

Respectfully,



Del Dickerson