

Jean Jewell

From: kevinweigel@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2013 10:23 AM
To: Jean Jewell; Beverly Barker; Gene Fadness
Subject: PUC Comment Form

A Comment from Kevin Weigel follows:

Case Number: IPC-E-12-27
Name: Kevin Weigel
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Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power
Acknowledge: acknowledge

Please describe your comment briefly:

Idaho Power's idea to use credits as a replacement for paying net meter customers when they generate more power than they use is not only bad, it is unfair. My own personal research on this has not produced a solid viable way for the idea of credits to work.

My home has been a net power producer over the course of a year since it was installed in 2009. As stated in my previous comments, the system was originally sized based on actual use the previous number of years to be net zero with respect to our power bill. We continued to improve our energy efficiency both on our own, and through the encouragement and support of Idaho Power through the use of programs like the insulation rebate. This has resulted in us using less and thus we now carry a small balance on our account.

If a credit system is implemented, what happens to these credits if we never increase our power use? Say we move 10 years from now, will we be paid for this surplus? My family invested money in a power generating system much like Idaho Power does in any of its facilities. Idaho Power then produces power and receives payment for it from customers. My system is producing power and building up credits in an account instead of being directly paid for its generation. If these credits are wiped out at any time, by either an expiration or move or any reason, we have now generated this power and not been paid for it. This is stealing.

The FERC states that it is a federal felony to steal power from a utility. An individual cannot receive power from a utility and not pay them for it or face federal prosecution. It seems completely unfair for the utility to do the same to any individual who produces power.

The PUC is very concerned that utilities fairly charge its customers on use rates. It follows that we should be concerned that Idaho Power fairly pays the generators in its service area. The current system of paying net producers the same as they would otherwise charge them is a fair system. In the case of solar systems, the current method allows Idaho Power to receive extra power at a known fixed rate. The bulk of net producers' generation comes during the heat of the summer. It would be interesting to see how this known fixed cost, compares to their generation costs, and to their costs of purchasing this on the market. This kind of analysis is noticeable missing from the original filing, and it seems that our individual home owners' rate would compare favorably.

Please do not allow an unfair credit system for excess power generation to be implemented. This system would punish net meter customers by allowing the utility to steal from them. Thank you.

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/ipuc1/ipuc.html>
IP address is 173.227.230.13
