

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83702

RECEIVED

2013 JUL 15 AM 8:57

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: Commissioners Ruling

IPC-E-12-27

Dear Commissioners,

I am very disappointed with parts of your ruling. Although I sized my solar array to pretty much provide for the power I use on a yearly basis, I can feel for those seeking a faster pay back by oversizing their systems. They are now forced into donating the excess generation or signing a power purchasing agreement (PPA) which maybe costly. I think an appropriate alternative would be to limit the size of a system to 1.25 times their previous years use with any excess generation paid to them at the avoided cost rate. As I understand, 30 plus states are paying customers at this rate without problems with FERC. A IPC representative stated "he overheard a rumor saying they may have a problem but couldn't remember the name of the person who said it (how embarrassing can you get). Any systems larger would have to have a PPA.

Idahoans are among the highest per capita producers of CO2 gases in the nation, mainly because the reliance on coal fired electrical generation. I was born and raised in this state and am embarrassed for this to continue when we have the opportunity to use renewable energy available to reduce our CO2 emissions. With solar panel costs declining, we should be taking advantage of this opportunity as well as well as other efficiency efforts. We need to wake up to the threat created by global warming. Our quality of life for us, our kids, and grandkids is at stake.

At the June 11 meeting, there were questions about the additional cost of equipment changes necessary to accommodate solar generation which were not answered. In the permit stage, IPC assigns an engineer to look over a persons proposal to see if any system upgrades are necessary. In the event upgrades are necessary the applicant must pay for them. Unless a system is alone on a line, the generation only goes as far as the neighbors anyway.

In summary, I am also embarrassed to be in a state where a board of commissioners appointed to represent a fair balance between the power companies and the public would overlook their own staff recommendations and expert testimony and rule in this way. Taking the excess power without any compensations is nothing less than stealing. You cannot go into any store and get something and on the way out say "CATCH YOU LATER". I feel you have leaned toward the power company on this proposal and it is way too obvious.

As far as the \$5.00 monthly charge that cannot be covered by generation, I guess is fitting since the board considers the excess generation of no value.



Gary E. Steinbach /PE
8835 Edna Lane
Middleton, Id 83644
208-585-3488
e-mail: gsfarms@msn.com