

## Jean Jewell

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**From:** dlogan@adaweb.net  
**Sent:** Friday, September 27, 2013 2:58 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Jean Jewell; Gene Fadness  
**Cc:** dlogan@adaweb.net  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Dave Logan

Name: Dave Logan  
Case Number: IPC-E-12-27  
Email: [dlogan@adaweb.net](mailto:dlogan@adaweb.net)  
Telephone:  
Address: 200 W Front Street  
Boise ID, 83702

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Acknowledge public record: True

Comment: Ada County would like to offer its comments on applying net metering credits to offset usage at multiple sites. Ada County has a net metered 11 KW PV system at Barber Park in Boise, Idaho. It came on-line in September 2011 and generates approximately 15,500 kWhs per year. It was installed on the roof of the Barber Park administration building (Building A) because of its ideal features for solar energy production; i.e. easy access and a white TPO membrane roof with an unobstructed southern exposure.

Ada County worked closely with Idaho Power during the planning of the system and met on-site with utility personnel during the design phase to determine how the net-metering would be done. Building A is served by a transformer that sits behind the building. However, the cost to tie the PV system into this transformer for net-metering was substantial due to the type of transformer and the underground boring that would be needed to run the power cables under the concrete sidewalks and an asphalt driveway over to the transformer.

After discussing all options for net metering with Idaho Power, both parties agreed the "best" approach would be to use the meter base on a park building located next door (Building B) as it was much easier to do and a lot less costly. The interconnection simply required installing a new meter base for Building B and trenching the line about 20 feet through grass between the 2 buildings. Building B itself uses very little energy and Idaho Power assured the County we could simply transfer the excess energy cash credits earned on the net metering account over to Building A's account.

This arrangement has worked very well for Ada County. The County has never requested or received a cash payment from Idaho Power for the excess energy produced but has always directly applied its credits from Building B to the account for Building A, on which the PV system is physically located.

Upon the release of Order 32846, the County obtained an estimate from a local PV company of \$9,000 to move the net metering from Building B to Building A's transformer. Considering that the PV system generates a cash credit of only \$500 in an entire year, the simple payback is 18 years so moving the net meter far outweighs the benefits.

Therefore, Ada County strongly supports the Commission's reconsideration to allow the accumulation and transfer of energy "credits" from one account to another. Further, Ada County also believes that replacing cash credits with bankable energy credits that can be applied to other accounts is a fair way to compensate customers for local, renewable, distributed generation.

Ada County works very hard to control energy costs through high performance buildings and close tracking of energy consumption. We believe solar energy can help keep energy costs down, though not all county facilities are good candidates for a PV system due to security concerns, access, orientation, etc., so we strongly support a tariff that would allow a customer to apply net metering credits generated at one facility to offset the energy

consumed by another. The only condition we feel is appropriate would be that the accounts belong to the same customer.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Dave Logan, Director  
Selena O'Neal, Energy Specialist  
Ada County Operations

Unique Identifier: 66.192.184.133