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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION



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Bentonville, AR 72716-5530
Phone (479) 204-1594
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May 14, 2013

Commission Secretary Jean D. Jewell
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

RE: Case No. IPC-E-13-10, In the Matter of the Application of Idaho Power Company for Authority to Implement Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Rates for Electric Service From June 1, 2013 Through May 31, 2014

Dear Secretary Jewell:

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Walmart") appreciates the opportunity to submit written comments to the Commission per the April 23rd, 2013 Order and Notice in this case. Walmart operates 22 retail stores in Idaho, employing over 6,600 associates. In its fiscal year ending 2013, Walmart purchased \$299 million worth of goods and services from Idaho-based suppliers, supporting 13,943 supplier jobs.¹ Walmart has approximately 13 facilities serviced by Idaho Power in Idaho.

Electricity represents a significant portion of retailers' operating costs. When rates increase, that increase in cost to retailers puts pressure on consumer prices and on the other expenses required by a business to operate, which impacts retailers' customers and employees. Rate increases also directly impact retailers' customers, who are Idaho Power's residential and small business customers. Given current economic conditions, a rate increase is a serious concern for retailers and their customers. The Commission should consider these impacts thoroughly and carefully in ensuring that any increase in Idaho Power's rates is only the minimum amount necessary for the utility to provide adequate and reliable service.

In this case, Idaho Power has proposed to increase its Power Cost Adjustment ("PCA") by \$140.3 million from June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014, due to a number of factors including lower hydro generation and lower market energy prices than forecast and the expiration of approximately \$50 million in rate credits. The proposed impact of this increase to Large General Service (Schedule 9) customers is 16.86 percent. However, because of the higher load factor of our stores, the impact of the \$140.3 million increase is closer to 20 percent. This is a significant cost increase, particularly in the abbreviated timeframe of one year in which PCA changes are implemented.

Idaho Power has proposed a mitigation alternative which would reduce the rate increase on June 1, 2013 from \$140.3 million to approximately \$87.9 million, with the remaining \$52.5 million to be collected in the 2014-2015 PCA rate year. Walmart agrees conceptually with Idaho Power's

¹ <http://corporate.walmart.com/our-story/locations/united-states#/united-states/idaho>

reservations regarding the implementation of a mitigation plan and that, optimally, power costs will be recovered as close as possible to the time in which those costs were incurred. However, given the extraordinary impact of the proposed non-mitigated increase and the Company's testimony regarding their favorable financial position and ability to withstand any cash flow impacts of the mitigation proposal, Walmart recommends that the Commission approve the mitigation proposal put forth by Idaho Power.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in this case. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at (479) 204-1594 or stephen.chriss@wal-mart.com.

Sincerely,



Steve W. Chriss

Senior Manager, Energy Regulatory Analysis

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Jean Jewell

From: Jean Jewell
Sent: Friday, May 17, 2013 8:42 AM
To: Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: Consumer Assistance Form

-----Original Message-----

From: lizard402000@yahoo.com [mailto:lizard402000@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 12:40 PM
To: Front; Beverly Barker
Subject: Consumer Assistance Form

Consumer Assistance Form submitted by Lisa Morgan follows:

IPC-E-13-10

Name: Lisa Morgan
Contact E-Mail: lizard402000@yahoo.com
Daytime Telephone: 2085873430
Home Address: 3190 NW Lancaster Ln Trlr 46
City: Mountain Home
State: Idaho
Zipcode: 83647
If this concerns a Business, Business Name:
Business Address:
Business Phone:
Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power
Have you contacted the utility regarding your concern?: yes

Please describe your question or complaint briefly:

The tiered rates that are being charged is very difficult on people who are on a fixed income what are we supposed to do when our bill is more than our Social Security and the payments on level pay is more than we can afford when we have to choose between medication or food already and the companies that try to help run out of money themselves so what are we supposed to do????

The form submitted on <http://www.puc.idaho.gov/forms/cons/cons.html>
IP address is 71.220.174.182
cons