

December 11, 2017

Idaho Public Utility Commission  
Sent via fax: 208-334-3762

From: E. Vanderpool  
6177 Somerset Ln  
Star, ID 83669  
208-286-0459

RE: IPC-E-17-13

Dear IPUC Commissioners:

I would like to voice my opinion and concerns over Idaho Power's request to put all of the (current and future) net-metering customers along with the (current and future) small businesses with solar / wind into a separate class. In their petition they indicate the current Distributed Energy Resource folks will be grandfathered for awhile. They cite one of their reasons for creating a separate class is so they can "study" the effects of small scale solar / wind upon the grid. Their past behavior is proven history their desire to extract much more money from all net metering / small businesses with solar / wind, and not to fail to mention with their adversarial approach with the "DER folks" who produce small - moderate electrical energy.

It is my understanding one of their main complaint and claims are net-metering / small businesses "DER folks" do not pay their fair share of the grid expenses. Net-metering / small business installed solar / wind intent is to off set their expenses. In my opinion that Idaho Power has fails to indicate the amount of energy they claim the "DER folks" produced, which IPC has claimed causes grid problems. Curious is it not, they can not quantify excess energy problem? Yet they seem to know there is a problem and they seem to think the only way for them know what it is by "studying" the problems by putting these DER folks into a separate class.

Furthermore, IPC minimizes the fact they sell the energy produced by DER folks at full retail to our immediate neighbors. All of the net-metering and small business with solar / wind have foot the bill out of their pocket for their own systems, that fact seems to be overlooked by IPC. IPC does not pay DER folks for the excess energy they sell to our neighbors. Nor do they seem to place any value on the energy the DER folks produce. Odd is not? Yet when IPC's community solar project produces energy, they pay their customers who contributed money for their solar project (approx. \$3/kwh).

Many utilities in the country claims these small "DER folks" create a surge problem to the grid whenever clouds / weather move through the State of Idaho. Strangely one could reason or conclude based on IPC's petition that those same weather conditions do not seem to impact the large energy producers here in the State. Odd, is it not? Clearly the large energy producers are in the business of producing large amounts of energy and put it all onto the grid. One could reason these large producers have enormous impact to the grid and thus can cause major electrical fluctuation. Why then, one must ask, are the DER folks being pushed into a separate class and challenged for producing small - moderate amounts of energy?

It is my understanding that IPC has determined for the sake of grid that all future net-metering along with small businesses with solar / wind must have "smart inverters" installed prior to the conclusion of their study. Yet, they can not seem to quantify the current excess energy in order to explain the fluctuation problem(s) on the grid. No doubt after their study is completed, IPC would then expect the IPUC to rule that all of the current net metering and small business folks with solar / wind must also have smart inverters installed in the near future too.

Interesting is it not, they fail to mention the "smart inverters" clears the way for them to step over IPC's smart meter into the customer's smart inverter, so they can control its output remotely. It is my understanding the smart inverters can be programmed very quickly thus altering all potential energy flow onto the grid in the speed of a lighting bolt(s).

Yet IPC still want these same DER folks to be held responsible for any damages or loss of life of their personnel and/or equipment. Odd is not? Almost all of the net-metering folks that I have met had their systems installed by a professional. Almost all of the DER folks are not technically capable of installing their systems. Let's not overlook the fact that the State of Idaho electrical inspector must sign off on these systems along with IPC personnel as to the safety of these systems. Moreover IPC does inspect these systems from time to time to insure the safety of the systems. Certainly, everyone wants IPC's personnel to be safe along with their equipment / grid to work properly. Why then should the DER folks be held responsible if IPC can program smart inverters and control it remotely?

And if system problems occur, how on earth would any professional solar / wind installer fix the difficulty when they have no idea precisely what programming changes were made by IPC? Would IPC be held responsible for the safety of those installers?

Why should the DER folks pay thousands of dollars more for these smart inverters if IPC can not explain why these smart inverters are necessary? My inverter has worked since it was installed and approved by the state inspector along IPC's personnel. I live on a fixed income and must budget every dollar that I have along saving for any possible household or medical emergency. What is to stop IPC from demanding all DER folks have new types of inverters & / or some other equipment installed every 3-years or so? What next, control of my hot water & furnace? It isn't fair for IPC or any utility to use my assets & hold me responsible for any damages they can cause including loss of life & limb, not to mention the damages they caused to my equipment!! Then to rub more salt, they can always approach the PUC for more funds for what ever reason they can come up with & we foot the bill for everything. Almost anyone living on social security can tell you that the government almost never give you anything but larger tax bill and then reduces your deductions.

It is reasonable to assume that IPC store its data on computers. How secure are their computers / databases? Is that information held in the "cloud", or some other entities bank of computers in a different state? Almost everyone has become quite aware of the data breaches to Equifax (millions of customers), CIA & NSA computer breaches. What steps has IPC taken to protect the grid from cyber terrorist?

How will their use of the smart inverters be monitored & by whom? What agency will fairly represent to customer & the utility? Will we know that agency will not be politically motivated or how do we know if the state legislation will get involved to insure of an even-handed approach into the future? It is no wonder folks are asking how can we get off the grid?

## **Diane Holt**

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**From:** aherndon9@aim.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 17, 2017 8:41 PM  
**To:** Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Matthew Evans  
**Subject:** Case Comment Form: Anne Herndon

Name: Anne Herndon  
Case Number: IPC-E-17-13  
Email: aherndon9@aim.com  
Telephone:  
Address:  
Boise Idaho, 83704

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power  
Comment: Case Number IPC-E-17-13

I oppose Idaho Power's proposal to create separate rate classes for customers with on-site generation systems such as rooftop solar.

Idaho Power contends that customers who participate in the net metering program are not paying their fare share for infrastructure. This argument is outrageous and demonstrates clearly that Idaho Power is attempting to crush programs that promote the use of clean, renewable energy. Rather than seeking to impose new rate structures that stifle the growth of renewable energy, Idaho Power should welcome and encourage programs such as net metering.

Idaho Power claims that customers who do not install solar are subsidizing those who do. To the contrary, solar customers are investing thousands of dollars at their own expense to build infrastructure that provides green energy for the grid. Non-solar customers receive power from this same grid; the excess power that is added to the grid from solar customers is available to all users.

Idaho Power's proposal demonstrates that it is putting its desires as a private for-profit enterprise above its obligations as a public utility. A public utility should be focused on providing renewable energy for the public at fair, reasonable rates. Net metering customers should be welcomed and treated as valuable contributors to a system that generates and distributes clean, renewable energy.

Idaho Power's current management of net metering customers is unfair, and the new proposal will further discourage the public from embracing solar energy. Currently, net metering customers have to wait until January to receive any credit for excess power that they have contributed to the grid during the previous 12 months. If net metering customers wish to use their energy credits to offset power used by a second building on their property, Idaho Power requires them to submit a special request form and pay a processing fee.

In summary, Idaho Power seems to view net metering customers as enemies who will ruin their for-profit business. Idaho Power needs to start acting like the public utility that it is. Net metering customers should be welcomed and receive benefits for their efforts to create infrastructure that adds clean, renewable energy to the grid.

Respectfully,  
Anne Herndon

Unique Identifier: 67.60.59.246

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