

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN POWER FOR )  
APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO ITS )  
ELECTRIC SERVICE SCHEDULES )  
)

CASE NO. PAC-E-07-05

IDAHO IRRIGATION PUMPERS

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

STANLEY C. SEARLE

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMPLOYMENT.

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3 A. I am Stanley C. Searle. I am farmer in the Shelley area of Bingham County,  
4 Idaho, and I am a member of the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association, Inc. My address is  
5 1288 N. 600 E., Shelley, Idaho 83274.

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7 Q. WHO PROVIDEDS YOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE, HOW LONG  
8 HAVE YOU BEEN FARMING, AND WHAT CROPS DO YOU CURRENTLY  
9 RAISE?

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11 A. The vast majority of the electricity for my farming operations is  
12 provided by Rocky Mountain Power ("RMP"). I started farming in the Shelley area  
13 in 1981. I currently raise potatoes, barley, and wheat.

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15 Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT TO YOUR FARMING  
16 OPERATIONS DUE TO THE LOSS OF THE BPA CREDIT?

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18 A. The loss of the BPA credit has severely increased the costs of my  
19 farming operations. From a review of my July/August bills, I estimate that my  
20 electricity costs have increased approximately 50%. This increase, coupled with the  
21 increase in diesel prices, has put a terrible financial strain on my farming operations.

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1 Q. WHY DID YOU NOT PARTICIPATE IN RMP'S LOAD CONTROL  
2 PROGRAMS IN 2007?

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4 A. I have participated in RMP's load control program in 2005 and 2006.  
5 However, in looking at load control program for the 2007 irrigation season, I  
6 determined that the amount of the credit received did not the justify risks of  
7 participation. These risks of participation included the increased investment I had in  
8 planting my crops and the losses to be sustained if I did not have sufficient water  
9 applied to my crops to maintain yields and quality.

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11 Q. WILL YOU PARTICIPATE IN RMP'S LOAD CONTROL  
12 PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE?

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14 A. Yes, if the credits are large enough to offset my costs and risk. The  
15 loss of the BPA credit makes it necessary to do all within my control to reduce my  
16 power costs. Although I did not participate in the RMP on-demand program this  
17 summer, I feel that the program shows promise and I am very interested in  
18 participating in that program for the 2008 irrigation season if the credit is sufficient to  
19 out weigh the risks of participating in the program.

20  
21 Q. WHAT IMPACT WILL RMP'S PROPOSED 6.7% INCREASE IN  
22 IRRIGATION RATES HAVE ON YOUR FARMING OPERATIONS?

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1           A.     RMP's proposed increase to my irrigation rate is a like throwing salt in  
2 a wound in light of the loss of the BPA credit. I understand that energy costs are  
3 going up, but the proposed increase, in conjunction with the loss of the BPA credit,  
4 causes serious rate shock and will very likely force me to cut back on certain parts of  
5 my farming operations.

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7           Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?

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9           A. Yes.