

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN )  
POWER'S REQUEST TO POSTPONE THE ) CASE NO. PAC-E-09-02  
FILING OF ITS 2009 INTEGRATED )  
RESOURCE PLAN (IRP) ) ORDER NO. 30766  
)**

---

On March 27, 2009, Rocky Mountain Power filed a "Motion" to postpone the filing of its 2009 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). Rocky Mountain's IRP was scheduled to be filed on March 30, 2009, but the Company now requests permission to file its 2009 IRP no later than May 29, 2009. Future IRPs will be filed on the last business day of March in odd number years. Based upon the reasons set out below, we find there is good cause to grant the requested relief.

**BACKGROUND**

The biennial IRP is a planning document that generally sets forth how electric and gas utilities intend to meet the energy requirements of their customers over the next 10 years. In Order No. 22299, the Commission directed each electric utility to file a biennial IRP that analyzes its customer base, load growth, supply-side resources, and demand-side management (DSM) resources. Order No. 27835 directed Rocky Mountain to file its IRP in December 2000 and every two years thereafter.

In February 2007, Rocky Mountain asked permission to file its December 2006 IRP no later than May 30, 2007. The Company also requested that the subsequent IRP be allowed to be filed no later than the last business day of March 2009. The Commission issued Order No. 30262 allowing the late filing and setting Rocky Mountain's new IRP filing date in March 2009, and every two years thereafter.

**THE MOTION**

In its Motion for Extension, Rocky Mountain states that the delay in completing and filing its 2009 IRP is attributable to three primary reasons. First and foremost, on February 11, 2009, the Company terminated its agreement to build the Lakeside 2 combined-cycle combustion turbine. Petition at 2. When the Company started planning its 2009 IRP, this plant was included in the resource stack with a planned in-service date of 2012. The Company indicated that it terminated the Lakeside 2 project so that it could "seek more cost-effective resource alternatives

[given] the recessionary environment, continued declines in forward electricity and gas prices, the favorable outlook for future plant construction costs, and additional transmission import capability into Utah. . . .” *Id.* Given the termination of the Lakeside 2 project, the Company needs additional time to conduct further analysis and recreate its “preferred portfolio” for the 2009 IRP.

Second, in February 2009, Rocky Mountain developed a revised load forecast that reflects the impact from the economic recession on the Company’s projected load growth. The Company needs additional time to perform its analysis of the changes in its resources and load growth forecast in the 2009 IRP. Third, the Company is also conducting additional “resource acquisition risk analysis and wind integration cost analysis” that will not be completed by the existing filing deadline of March 31, 2009. *Id.* at 3. Allowing the Company to complete its analytical work given the basic changes to its resource and load growth assumptions is in the public interest. The Company asserts that future IRPs (e.g., the 2011 IRP) will be filed by the last business day of March in odd number years. *Id.* at 4.

Consequently, Rocky Mountain requests that the Commission approve an extension of time to file the 2009 IRP to no later than May 29, 2009. Rocky Mountain asserts that its future IRPs will be filed no later than the last business day of March.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Given the administrative nature of Rocky Mountain’s request, the Staff suggested that the Commission treat the Company’s “Motion” as a petition requesting modification of an existing Order. Rule 53, IDAPA 31.01.01.053. Rule 53 notes that pleadings that request a modification of an existing Order (i.e., Order No. 30262) are defined as “Petitions.” *Id.*

Staff recommended that the Commission grant Rocky Mountain an extension of its 2009 IRP filing date to May 29, 2009. Staff believes there is good cause to grant the requested relief without further notice or public comment.

#### **COMMISSION FINDINGS**

We shall treat the Company’s Motion for Extension of Time as a petition requesting relief from a prior Commission Order. IDAPA 31.01.01.053. Based upon our review of Rocky Mountain’s Petition and Staff’s recommendation, we grant Rocky Mountain’s request and extend the filing deadline for the 2009 IRP. *Idaho Code* § 61-624. Given the procedural nature of the

request, we find there is good cause to grant the requested relief without further notice or public comment.

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Rocky Mountain Power's Petition for Extension of Time is granted. The Company shall file its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) no later than May 29, 2009. We remind the Company that it shall designate its filing as the 2009 IRP.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rocky Mountain Power shall file future IRPs no later than the last business day of March on a biennial basis beginning in 2011.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order (or in issues finally decided by this Order) or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this Case No. PAC-E-09-02 may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order or in interlocutory Orders previously issued in this case. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. See *Idaho Code* § 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 7<sup>th</sup>  
day of April 2009.

  
JIM D. KEMPTON, PRESIDENT

  
MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

  
MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

bls/O:PAC-E-09-02\_dh