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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
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Boise ID 83720-0074

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June 3, 2015

Re: IPC-E-15-01

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Idaho Power's, Avista's and Pacificorp's requests to lower their renewable power purchasing agreement contract terms under PURPA. Idaho Smart Growth is the only statewide nonprofit organization that works with people to strengthen their communities through sensible growth and development decisions. We recognize that Idaho's relatively low rates for electricity, partly due to the amount of hydropower generated here, are important to Idaho communities, businesses and individuals. However, we are concerned that the roughly half of Idaho's energy produced by burning coal and natural gas creates significant economic and environmental costs that are not adequately reflected in our low power rates.

Idaho Smart Growth is committed to promoting and expanding the use of green power. To demonstrate our commitment, we partner with Radio Boise to offset their broadcast with 100% renewable energy from Idaho Power's Green Power Program. Radio Boise's broadcast uses 58,000 kWh of electricity per year—enough to power 4½ homes. Idaho Smart Growth provides the premium for the renewable energy credits, removing the equivalent of nearly 40 tons of carbon from the atmosphere, or taking 7½ cars off the road.

We ask that you require Idaho's utilities to do all they can to continue to shift their power purchasing to renewable sources, and furthermore, to encourage them to embrace new models of clean energy production and distributed power. This will not only serve to keep Idaho's power rates low, but it will improve our quality of life, our economic competitiveness and the health of our citizens.

Please let us know if we can provide any other information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scot Oliver'.

Scot Oliver
Executive Director

Staff:

Scot Oliver

Executive Director

Elaine Clegg

Program Coordinator

Deanna Smith

Program Coordinator

Kate Rodriguez

Administrator