

Morgan W. Richards, ISB No. 1913
MOFFATT, THOMAS, BARRETT, ROCK &
FIELDS, CHARTERED
Post Office Box 829
Boise, Idaho 83701
Telephone: (208) 345-2000
Facsimile: (208) 385-5384
11-500.303

Michael Huntington
INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY
555 South Cole Road
Post Office Box 7608
Boise, Idaho 83707
Telephone: (208) 377-6000
Facsimile: (208) 377-6097

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION)
FILED BY INTERMOUNTAIN GAS)
COMPANY FOR EXEMPTION FROM)
IDAPA RULE 31.31.01.102)
_____)

Case No. INT-G-02-01
PETITION FOR EXEMPTION

Intermountain Gas Company ("Intermountain"), an Idaho corporation with general offices located at 555 South Cole Road, Boise, Idaho, hereby respectfully petitions the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for an exemption from IDAPA Rule 31.31.01.102 - Construction, Operation and Maintenance of Facilities for Transmission and Distribution of Gas. The requested exemption is being filed pursuant to IDAPA Rule 31.01.01.053. In support of this request, Intermountain states as follows:

I.

In an effort to enhance Intermountain's level of customer service, Intermountain is planning to eliminate redundant customer installation inspections "beyond our meter." Current practice involves duplicate inspections by both an authorized agency as well as by Intermountain in areas where an authorized inspection agency exists. By eliminating redundant inspections, Intermountain will be improving our customers' ability to receive expedited service from their heating contractor and the heating dealer will need inspection approval from only one authorized agency thereby streamlining the inspection process.

II.

Although the current Rules allow for the utilization of authorized inspection agencies (Please reference IDAPA 31.11.01 - Safety and Accident Reporting Rules for Utilities Rules 202 & 203), IDAPA Rule 31.31.01.102 states that "The gas corporation shall inspect the customer's installation before the connection of the meter to ascertain that the installation conforms to the provisions contained in the National Fuel Gas Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code, as adopted by the Commission." (Please note in Rule 102 cross-references to other Rules and Regulations.)

III.

Intermountain would like to proceed to eliminate this inspection redundancy by removing itself from the inspection process where authorized inspection agencies exist thereby allowing those authorized inspection agencies to serve as a "single source" inspection authority. Certainly, in those areas of Intermountain's service territory where authorized agencies do not exist, our intent would be to continue to provide for the inspection of the customer's installation. Before eliminating the duplicate inspections currently being provided by both Intermountain as

well as other approved agencies, Intermountain requests that the exemption herein requested be granted by this Commission with an effective date of March 1, 2002.

IV.

The public interest does not require a hearing on this request an exemption from Rule 102 and Intermountain, therefore, requests that this matter be handled under modified procedure pursuant to Rules 201-204 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Intermountain stands ready for immediate consideration of this matter.

WHEREFORE, Intermountain requests an exemption from IDAPA Rule 31.31.01.102 effective March 1, 2002.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 11th day of January 2002.

MOFFATT, THOMAS, BARRETT, ROCK
& FIELDS, CHARTERED

Morgan W. Richards
Attorney for Intermountain Gas Company

INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY

Michael Huntington
Vice President
Marketing & External Affairs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 11th day of January 2002, I caused to be served a true copy of the foregoing **PETITION FOR EXEMPTION** by the method indicated below.

Jean Jewell
Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

U.S. Mail, Postage Prepaid
 Hand Delivered
 Overnight Mail
 Facsimile

INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY

Michael P. McGrath
Director
Market Services & Regulatory Affairs