

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE 2017-2021
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN OF
INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY**

) **CASE NO. INT-G-17-04**
)
) **NOTICE OF**
) **MODIFIED PROCEDURE**
)
) **ORDER NO. 33922**

On August 4, 2017, Intermountain Gas Company (Company) filed its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) for the years 2017-2021. The Company files an IRP every two years to describe the Company's plans to meet its customers' future natural gas needs. The IRP must discuss the subjects required by Commission Order Nos. 25342, 27024 and 27098 and Section 303(b)(3) of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA), 15 U.S.C. § 3202. The Commission reviews the IRP to ensure that it discusses these subjects and represents a diligent effort by the Company to plan for the anticipated supply and demand for natural gas.

After the Company filed its IRP, the Commission issued an Order providing Notice of Filing, setting a deadline for interventions, and directing the parties to confer about a proposed schedule and report their proposal to the Commission. Order No. 33870. No petitions for intervention were received.

Staff and the Company agreed on a schedule for processing this case, which Staff proposed to the Commission. With this Order, the Commission adopts the proposed schedule and notifies the public that this case will be processed via Modified Procedure under Rules 201-204 of the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204.

BACKGROUND

A natural gas IRP describes a company's plans to meet its customers' future natural gas needs. In Order No. 25342, the Commission adopted IRP requirements for local gas distribution companies in response to amended Section 303 of PURPA. The Commission revised the requirements in Order Nos. 27024 and 27098. In summary, these Orders direct gas utilities to file an IRP every two years that includes:

1. A forecast of future gas demand for each customer class;
2. An analysis of gas supply options for each customer class;

3. A comparative analysis of gas purchasing options, and an explanation of whether there are cost-effective Demand-Side Management (DSM) opportunities;
4. The integration of the demand forecast and resource evaluations into a long range (at least a five-year) plan describing the strategies designed to meet current and future needs at the lowest cost to the utility and its ratepayers;
5. A short-term (e.g., two-year) plan outlining the specific actions to be taken by the utility in implementing the IRP;
6. A progress report that relates the new plan to the previously filed plan; and
7. Public participation.

In Order Nos. 32855 and 33314, the Commission adopted other requirements relating to lost and unaccounted for gas reports and avoided cost calculations (and the use of those calculations in evaluating natural gas DSM opportunities).¹ The Commission's Notice of Filing further describes the IRP requirements. *See* Order No. 33870.

THE 2017-2021 IRP

The Company's 2017-2021 IRP explains the Company regularly forecasts its customers' gas needs and determines how to best meet those needs. The Company's IRP represents a snapshot in time of the Company's ongoing planning process; it describes the anticipated conditions over a five-year planning horizon, the anticipated resource selections, and the process for making resource decisions. *See* IRP at 2.

The Company sells natural gas to two major markets: the residential/commercial market and the industrial market. The Company forecasts changes in its peak-day loads due to customer growth under base case, high, and low growth economic scenarios, and analyzes five geographic areas. The Company sees no peak-day delivery deficits over the next five years when it matches its forecasted peak-day delivery against its existing resources. *Id.* at 3- 4, 5-10.

In summary, the IRP analyzed residential, commercial, and industrial customer growth and its impact on the Company's distribution system using "design weather conditions under various scenarios for Idaho's economy." *Id.* at 11. The Company measured peak-day delivery under each customer growth scenario against the available natural gas delivery systems

¹ Lost and unaccounted for gas is the difference between the amount of natural gas delivered to the Company's distribution system at the city gate and amount of natural gas ultimately recorded at the customers' meters.

to project the magnitude and timing of delivery deficits on a total Company and regional perspective. The Company analyzed the resources needed to meet any projected deficits within a framework of options to help determine the most cost-effective means to manage the deficits. According to the Company, these options allow its core market and firm transportation customers to rely on uninterrupted service now and for years to come. *Id.* The Commission's Notice of Filing provides more detail on the Company's IRP. *See* Order No. 33870.

PARTIES' PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Staff and the Company conferred informally and agreed to the following schedule under Modified Procedure:

January 12, 2018	Comment deadline
February 2, 2018	Company reply deadline

The Commission finds it reasonable to adopt the parties' proposed schedule.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201-204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the **parties** in this matter or any member of the **public** desiring to state a position on this IRP may file a written comment in support or in opposition with the Commission **by January 12, 2018**. IDAPA 31.01.01.202.02. All comments must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments concerning this IRP filing may be mailed to the Commission and Company at the addresses reflected below:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5918

Michael P. McGrath
Director – Regulatory Affairs
Intermountain Gas Company
P.O. Box 7608
Boise, ID 83707
Email: Mike.McGrath@intgas.com

These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Case Comment or Question Form" under the "Consumers" tab, and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to the Company at the e-mail address listed above.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company may file reply comments, if necessary, **by February 2, 2018.**


YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.


ORDER

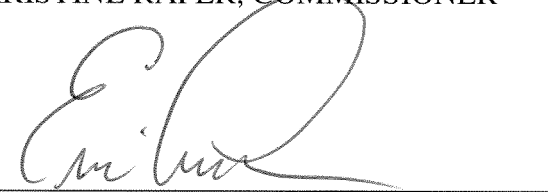
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this case be processed under Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Parties and persons interested in submitting comments must do so by January 12, 2018. The Company must file a reply, if any, by February 2, 2018.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this
day of October 2017.

25th


PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER


ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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