

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

INTERMOUNTAIN GAS COMPANY

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RUL-U-03-01

October 20, 2003

Ms. Jean Jewell
Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
472 W. Washington St.,
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Re: 31.11.01 - Safety and Accident Reporting Rules
Docket No. 31-1101-0301

Dear Ms. Jewell:

Intermountain Gas Company ("Intermountain") supports the proposed rule changes as attached hereto regarding 31.11.01 – Safety and Accident Reporting Rules for Utilities Regulated by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. More specifically, Intermountain supports the adoption of the International Fuel Gas Code ("IFGC") and the International Mechanical Code ("IMC") when promulgating rules to which these codes pertain.

If you have any questions, please call me at 377-6168.

Very truly yours,


Michael P. McGrath
Director
Market Services and Regulatory Affairs

IDAPA 31 - PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

31.11.01 - SAFETY AND ACCIDENT REPORTING RULES FOR UTILITIES REGULATED BY THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. 31-1101-0301

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING - PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given of the Public Utilities Commission's proposed rulemaking. This action is authorized pursuant to Sections 61-515, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: A public hearing concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled only if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than October 15, 2003.

The hearing site will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodations must be made no later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the Commission's address set out below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a non-technical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rule:

The Commission's Safety and Accident Reporting Rules currently adopt by reference several national safety codes. In Rule 202, the Commission proposes to adopt the 2003 edition of the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC). The Commission proposes to replace the previously adopted 1999 edition of the National Fuel Gas Code with the 2003 edition of the IFGC. The IFGC is intended to be consistent and inclusive with the latest edition of the National Fuel Gas Code (2002). Sections 39-4109 and 39-4116, Idaho Code, permit local governments to adopt various International Codes published by the International Code Council. Most if not all communities that have adopted a fuel gas code have adopted the IFGC.

In Rule 203, the Commission proposes to adopt those portions of the 2003 International Mechanical Code (IMC) that explicitly refer to gas or gas-burning appliances. The IMC is published by the International Code Council. Portions of the IMC will replace the previously adopted 2000 edition of the Uniform Mechanical Code. Nearly all communities that have adopted a mechanical code have adopted the IMC.

FEE SUMMARY: There are no fees associated with this proposed rulemaking.

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to IDAPA 04.11.01.0811, negotiated rulemaking was not conducted because these proposed rules adopt national safety codes dealing with the provision of natural gas services.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rules, contact Donald L. Howell, II, Deputy Attorney General, at (208) 334-0312 or Michael Fuss, PUC Staff Engineer, at (208) 334-0366.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding these proposed rules. All written comments concerning the proposed rules must be delivered to the Commission Secretary at the address identified below or must be postmarked on or before October 22, 2003. Persons desiring to comment are encouraged to submit written comments at their earliest convenience rather than wait until the comment deadline.

DATED at Boise, Idaho this 11th day of August, 2003.

Jean D. Jewell, Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
Telephone: (208) 334-0338
Facsimile: (208) 334-3762

Street address for express delivery:

472 W Washington
Boise, ID 83702-5983

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 31-1101-0301

202. INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE (NIFGA) (Rule 202).

01. Adoption By Reference. The Commission adopts by reference the ~~NFPA 54 ANSI Z223.1 National International Fuel Gas Code, 1999 2003 Edition and the errata 99-1 dated April 123, 20003. The 1999 Edition of the National Fuel Gas Code is designated as ANSI Z223.1-1999 by the American National Standards Institute, Inc. (ANSI), and as NFPA 54-1999 by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The National International Fuel Gas Code is jointly published by the American Gas Association, Codes and Standards, 400 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, and the National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, PO Box 9101, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-9101, and International Code Council, 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600, Falls Church, VA 22041. The Code is available from them the Code Council and may be ordered online at www.iccsafe.org. Telephone orders may be placed by calling toll-free 1-800-344-3555 284-4406.~~ ()

02. Utility Compliance. All gas corporations subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission are required to abide by applicable provisions of the ~~National International Fuel Gas Code~~ and to connect for service and light only those installations that: (3-30-01)()

a. Have been inspected and approved by authorized agencies; or (4-1-98)

b. When inspecting agencies do not exist, to require their customers to abide by applicable provisions of the ~~International Fuel Gas Code~~ as a condition of receiving service or continuing to receive service. (4-1-98)()

203. UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE (UIMC) (Rule 203).

01. Adoption By Reference. The Commission adopts by reference those portions of the ~~Uniform 2003 International Mechanical Code 2000 Edition and the undated first errata~~ explicitly referring to gas or gas-burning appliances; ~~provided, however, that unvented room heaters not meeting the requirements of Section 807(e) of the Uniform Mechanical Code may be connected for service if they comply with Sections 6.24 and 7.2 of the National Fuel Gas Code.~~ The ~~Uniform International Mechanical Code 2000 Edition~~ is published by the ~~International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials Code Council, 20001 South Walnut Drive, Walnut, California 91789-2825~~ 5203 Leesburg Pike, Suite 600, Falls Church, VA 22041 and may be ordered by calling toll-free 800-284-4406 or online at www.iccsafe.org. ()

02. Utility Compliance. Gas Corporations subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission are required to abide by applicable provisions of the ~~Uniform International Mechanical Code~~ and to connect for service and light only those installations that: (3-30-01)()

a. Have been inspected and approved by authorized agencies; or (4-1-98)

b. When inspecting agencies do not exist, to require their customers to abide by applicable provisions of the ~~Uniform International Mechanical Code~~; ~~provided, however, that unvented room heaters not meeting the requirements of Section 807(e) of the Uniform Mechanical Code may be connected for service if they comply with Sections 6.24 and 7.2 of the National Fuel Gas Code~~ as a condition of receiving service or continuing to receive service. (4-1-98)()