



## Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Paul Kjellander, Commissioner  
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Eric Anderson, Commissioner

Case No. PAC-E-16-05, Order No. 33467; Case No. PAC-E-16-02, Order No. 33468

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[www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov)

# Rocky Mountain proposes two rate adjustments

**BOISE (Feb. 24, 2016)** – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comment on two Rocky Mountain Power applications, one that proposes to increase rates slightly and another that would decrease rates by about the same amount.

Rocky Mountain Power proposes that its annual Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ECAM) be a slight decrease to customers of about 0.7 percent, or about 58 cents on an average residential monthly bill.

The utility, which serves about 73,000 customers in eastern Idaho, is also seeking a 0.6 percent increase to its Customer Efficiency Services Rate from the current 2.1 percent of the monthly billed amount to 2.7 percent.

### **Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism**

Rates for Rocky Mountain customers are adjusted either up or down every April 1 to account for power supply expense that varies from year to year depending on the previous year's fuel costs, surplus power sales, power purchases and the market price of power.

If variable costs are higher than what is already included in base rates, customers get a one-year surcharge; if they are lower, customers get a one-year credit. For the 12-month period ending Nov. 30, 2015, Rocky Mountain's net power supply costs were \$9.3 million less than that included in base rates, resulting in a rate credit to customers.

### **Customer Energy Efficiency Services**

Rocky Mountain invests in a number of programs that either shift consumption to off-peak hours (demand response) or reduce consumption (energy efficiency). Funding for those programs is collected from the Energy Efficiency Services line item on customer bills.

Expenditures for the programs increased by about 38 percent from \$3.2 million in 2014 to \$4.4 million in 2015 due to increased customer participation. Savings from energy efficiency programs increased from 11,410 megawatt-hours in 2014 to about 15,440 MWh in 2016.

Customers benefit in two ways from the programs. Participating customers benefit from lower bills by taking part in the programs. Customers who do not participate also benefit because the cost of the electricity saved is about half of what it would cost Rocky Mountain to generate or buy the same amount of energy.

Neither of these applications increase company earnings. Money collected in the ECAM or from the energy efficiency rider must go directly toward the deferred accounts established for each program.

The commission is taking public comment through March 10 on the proposed ECAM decrease and through March 16 on the proposed efficiency services increase. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission's website at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov) and clicking on "Case Comment Form," under the "Consumers" heading. Fill in the case number (PAC-E-16-05 for the ECAM and PAC-E-16-02 for the Energy Efficiency Services charge) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.

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