

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



2003 JUL 10 AM 8: 37

PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Case No. ATL-E-03-01 June 28, 2003 Atlanta Id.

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If you cannot or do not want to testify in person at this hearing but want your opinion noted, please use the space below to write your comments. Add extra sheets as needed. You may either hand this sheet to a commission staff member or mail it to:

IPUC, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074.

You may also post comments on our WebSite.

www.puc.state.id.us

click on "comments & questions."

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Atlanta, ID. \$3601

FRED KENNEDY
DISTRICT 22
BOISE & ELMORE COUNTIES



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Idaho State Senate

State Capitol P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0081

July 9, 2003

Jean D. Jewel Commission Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission P. O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Re: In the Matter of the Investigation of Atlanta Power Company's Rates and Customer Service
Case No. ATL-E-03-1

2003 JUL 10 AM 8: 38

Dear Commission Secretary:

As you know, I attended the workshop in Atlanta conducted by the Commission Staff in the above matter on June 28, 2003. I joined several people, including ratepayers and officials of Atlanta Power Company, who made statements at the workshop. The purpose of this letter is to present written comments for consideration by the Commission in connection with its consideration of the pending issues on the merits in this matter. I make the following comments for consideration by the Commission, which are substantially the same as those I made in person at the workshop:

- 1. The residents of Atlanta have been experiencing numerous problems over the years in obtaining what they believe to be reasonable, reliable electrical service from Atlanta Power Company. The ratepayers of Atlanta Power Company should be entitled to receive reasonably reliable, dependable electrical service at reasonable rates that are based on the Commission's review of essential financial records to be maintained by Atlanta Power Company and submitted in a timely manner to the Commission for review in compliance with State law and the orders of the Commission.
- 2. In the Commission's Notice of Proposed Order dated April 10, 2003, the Commission stated, in part, as follows: "On June 4, 1993, the Commission ... directed the Company to 'implement, and utilize proper utility accounting procedures and recordkeeping, including, but not limited to, the preparation and retention of adequate source documentation.' Order

- No. 24925. Staff noted that the Company has not complied with this Order and still needs to improve its recordkeeping. Because Atlanta Power last submitted an annual report for calendar year 1997, the Company is not in compliance with *Idaho Code* Sec. 61-405, which requires such reports to be submitted before April 15 of each year. Staff recommends that all past due annual reports be filed by June 15, 2003."
- 3. If the public is to maintain the confidence it should have in the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to properly and fairly regulate the service provided by a utility to its users, and the cost charged for same, the Commission must take all reasonable, appropriate steps to enforce applicable law and Orders entered by it in connection with its regulation of covered utility companies.
- 4. In the Commission's Order to be entered in this matter, Atlanta Power Company should be required to make immediate and substantial improvement in its record keeping, including the collection, preparation and retention of adequate source documentation covering all income earned and expenditures made in connection with the operation of its electrical power business in Atlanta, Idaho, so that in the future the Commission's approval of proposed rates and review of the adequacy of service will be based on actual, relevant data, rather than on estimates. The records should also include a log covering electrical power down times, making note of the date and time of the power going down, the time the company received notification of same, the reason for power failure, the remedy made to restore the delivery of electricity, and the date and time the power delivery was restored. In order to allow the Company to maintain and prepare proper records in the future without incurring substantial outside preparation costs, the Commission may desire to allow the Company to file a defined, modified annual report that includes all required information but can be prepared informally without the need for professional assistance in its preparation and filing. The Company should be required to submit its record keeping plan to the Commission for advance review and approval. Once approved, the Commission should require that the Company follow the plan.
- 5. In the Commission's Order to be entered in this matter, Atlanta Power Company should be required, within a reasonable, defined period of time, to prepare and submit to the Commission for its review and approval, a detailed preventative maintenance program covering the proper maintenance, repair and replacement of its electrical power system, including but not limited to poles, lines, transformers, generators, power plant, etc. Once this plan has been submitted and approved, the Commission should require that the Company follow the preventative maintenance program.
- 6. In the Commission's Order to be entered in this matter, the parties should be encouraged to cooperate with each other in an attempt to obtain some type of grant of federal, state or private funds under which Atlanta Power Company and/or the community of Atlanta could purchase a reliable backup gas generator, of sufficient capacity, that would be used by the Company to provide electrical power to the residents of Atlanta at times when the existing hydro-electric power generation failed to operate properly.

7. In the Commission's Order to be entered in this matter, Atlanta Power Company should be required to prepare and submit to the Commission for its approval, a plan outlining the procedure to be followed by the Company to restore the delivery of electricity to users once a power outage has occurred. Once the Commission has approved such a plan, the Commission should require that the Company follow the electrical service restoration plan.

Please present these comments to the Commission for its consideration of all pending issues in the above-entitled proceeding.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Fred Kennedy State Senator

Cc: Lynn Stevenson

Atlanta Power Company

319 River Road Bliss, ID 83314