

## DECISION MEMORANDUM

**TO: COMMISSIONER KJELLANDER  
COMMISSIONER RAPER  
COMMISSIONER ANDERSON  
COMMISSION SECRETARY  
LEGAL  
WORKING FILE**

**FROM: JOHNATHAN FARLEY  
RICHARD KELLER**

**DATE: MAY 10, 2018**

**SUBJECT: IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION OF ATLANTA POWER  
COMPANY SERVICE AND CUSTOMER RELATIONS;  
STAFF SAFETY REPORT; CASE NO. ATL- E-18-01**

On March 14, 2018, two non-resident customers of Atlanta Power Company alerted the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission that another customer's service line had fallen to the ground. The customers expressed concern that the line could endanger persons who come into contact with it. On April 2, 2018, the Commission ordered the Company to immediately repair the downed service. Additionally, the Commission ordered Staff to address any safety issues related to Company facilities in its ongoing investigation and to report back to the Commission its findings within sixty (60) days. Staff's Safety Report has been included as an attachment to this memorandum.

On Thursday, March 29, 2018, Commission Staff traveled to Atlanta, Idaho, to investigate the reported downed service line. Staff found the service line had fallen and was partially buried in snow but all wire connections to the service line were still intact. Staff confirmed that the affected customer's power was still on and the line was not arcing or shorting. It is Staff's understanding that the downed service line was recently repaired by members of the community. Staff has a site inspection planned for Tuesday, May 15, 2018, and will confirm the repair has been made.

Staff identified an additional safety concern during their visit to Atlanta on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff found there is inadequate protection around the drive pulleys and belts of the turbine-generator. Although there is a makeshift railing separating building access from the turbine-

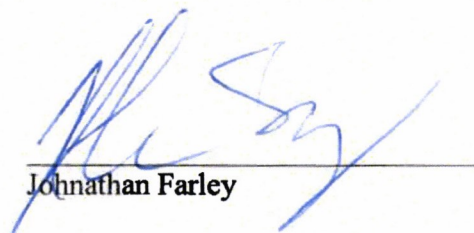
generator drive, Staff is concerned that the barrier provides minimal safety protection for any personnel entering the building and may not be in compliance with U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends the Commission issue an Order requiring the Company to immediately address the safety hazard posed by the inadequate protection around the drive pulleys and belts of the turbine-generator.

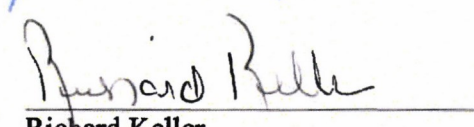
#### **COMMISSION DECISION**

- 1) Does the Commission accept Staff's Safety Report in compliance with Commission Order No. 34017?
- 2) Does the Commission wish to issue an Order requiring the Company to immediately address the safety hazard posed by the inadequate protection around the drive pulleys and belts of the turbine-generator.



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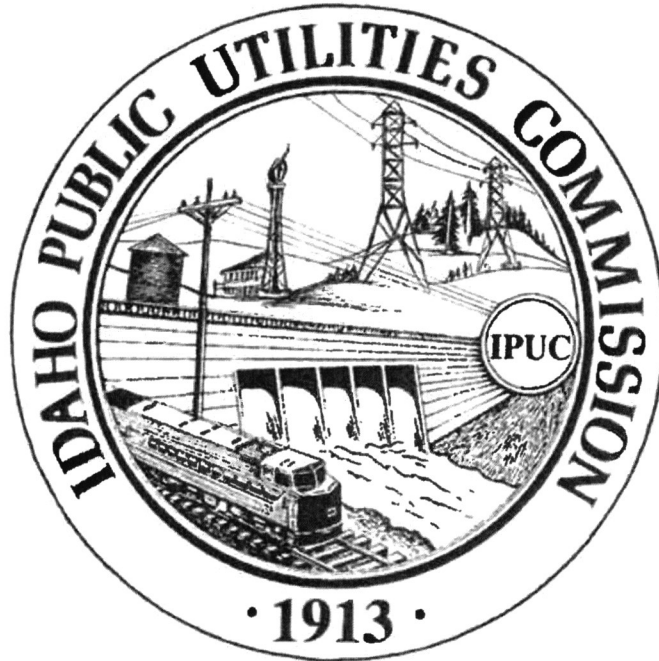
Johnathan Farley



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Richard Keller

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**STAFF SAFETY REPORT  
APRIL 16, 2018**

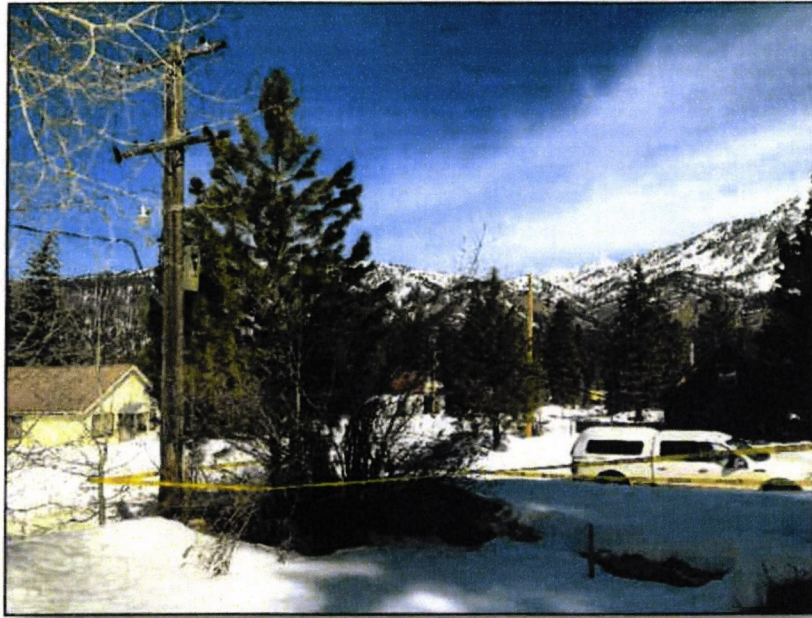
**RICHARD KELLER, P.E.  
IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

On March 14, 2018, two non-resident customers of Atlanta Power Company notified Commission Staff that a customer's service line had fallen to the ground. The customers expressed concern that the line could endanger persons who come into contact with it. On April 2, 2018, the Commission ordered the Company to immediately repair the downed service. Additionally, the Commission ordered Staff to address any safety issues related to Company facilities in its ongoing investigation and to report back to the Commission with its findings within sixty (60) days.

On Thursday, March 29, 2018, Commission Staff (Richard Keller & Johnathan Farley) traveled to Atlanta Idaho to investigate a reported downed service line owned and operated by Atlanta Power Company. Upon arriving in Atlanta Idaho, Staff met with the Fire Chief, Gene Haight, Ron Sherer, and a resident who directed them to the location of the downed line at the intersection of Quartz St. and Alpine Rd. On site, Staff found the service line partially buried in snow estimated to be 1 to 3 feet in depth. At the ends of the previously supported span, the service line reached up to the supporting poles. Barrier tape had been placed adjacent too the road to caution people against entering the area.



*Figure 1 - East Support Pole*



*Figure 2 - West Support Pole*



*Figure 3 - Looking West*

Sandra Nye, the customer receiving power from the downed service line, indicated her power was still on, and that no arcing or shorting of the service has been experienced. She indicated the service line spanning between the two poles was near the edge of the neighbor's roofline and that snow sliding off the roof pulled the line to the ground.

Staff noted the pole attachment hardware on the west pole was hanging from the service wire, and was likely pulled out of the pole when the snow slid from the roof. All wire connections to the service line were still intact. Staff requested additional barrier tape to be placed on the south side of the downed line to better restrict access to the area.

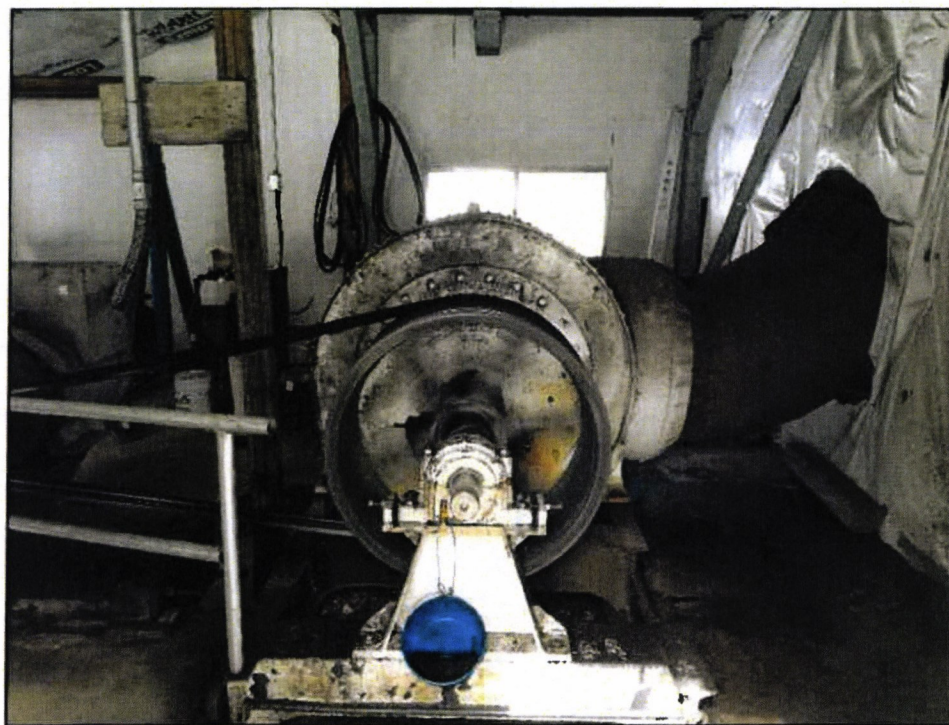


*Figure 2 - Looking North - Requested Barrier Tape*

Snow depth and road conditions within the town of Atlanta limited Staff's ability to fully review Atlanta Power Company's distribution system. Access to the powerhouse at the dam site was possible. The Fire Chief directed Staff to the Kirby Dam and further provided access into the powerhouse.

The Fire Chief identified major components at the dam site and provided a general description of equipment and its operation within the powerhouse. Upon inspection, one

serious concern identified by Staff is the inadequate protection found around the drive pulleys and belts of turbine-generator within the powerhouse. Although there is a makeshift railing separating building access from the turbine-generator drive itself, Staff believes the barrier is inadequate and that it provides minimal safety protection for any personnel entering the powerhouse building. OSHA requirements indicate the turbine-generator drive itself would likely need to be fully enclosed for protection.



*Figure 3 Turbine Drive Pulley and Belt*

Staff recommends the downed service line be repaired as soon as possible. Furthermore, Staff recommends the Company immediately address the safety issues concerning the turbine-generator pulley as it poses an immediate safety hazard to personnel and equipment within the powerhouse.