

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Brad Gamett
Submission Time: Aug 14 2023 6:13PM
Email: brad@lrecoop.com
Telephone: 208-588-3311
Address: P.O. Box 420
Mackay, ID 83251

Name of Utility Company: Lost River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Case ID: C15-E-23-01

Comment: "August 14, 2023

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
Ste. 201-A
Boise, ID 83714
(Submitted electronically via: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title61/T61CH3/SECT61-332/>)

Re: To CEQ Request for Comment IPUC DOCKET NO. C15-E-23-01

As an “affected” utility of the State of Idaho, Lost River Electric Cooperative, Inc. (hereafter LREC) opposes the City of Burley’s Petition for Declaratory Judgement that its existing service territory agreement with United Electric Co-op, Inc. should be terminated, in part, because:

“citizens [should] ... not be forced into using one service provider over another based on an agreement 37 years ago.”

Rather, LREC takes the stance that the Commission follow Idaho Statute—as stated in Idaho Statute Title 61, Chapter 3, Section 61-332—

“(2) This act and its amendments are designed to promote harmony among and between electric suppliers furnishing electricity within the state of Idaho, prohibit the "pirating" of consumers of another electric supplier, discourage duplication of electric facilities, actively supervise certain conduct of electric suppliers as it relates to this act, and stabilize the territories and consumers served with electricity by such electric suppliers.”

LREC supports the upholding the integrity of defined utility service territory boundaries, while recognizing that these service territories—and the agreements that uphold them—will need amended from time to time. This approach has served in the best interest of the citizens of the State of Idaho collectively for many years. Unilateral termination of such agreements sets a precedent that runs counter to this history and several of the Commission’s core governing statutes. Predictably, the resulting impacts of such precedent are highly unfavorable to the citizens of the State of Idaho as they run directly counter to the aforementioned statute.

LREC believes that the Commission has the authority and prerogative to oversee the development of and the upholding and enforcement of existing service territory boundary agreements and strongly encourages it to continue do so. Further, LREC urges the Commission enforce a well-defined policy of promoting and protecting the utilization of service territory boundaries.

Sincerely,

Brad J. Gamett
General Manager/CEO
Lost River Electric Cooperative, Inc."



RECEIVED
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 11:05:10 AM
IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Lost River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P. O. Box 420 • 305 Pine Street • Mackay, Idaho 83251-0420 Telephone
(208)588-3311 • FAX (208)588-3038 • Office@LRECOOP.com

August 14, 2023

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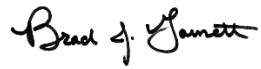
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¹ Docket No. C15-E-23-01, Order No. 35885 at pp. 2 – 3.

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Commission enforce a well-defined policy of promoting and protecting the utilization of service territory boundaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brad J. Gamett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brad J. Gamett
General Manager/CEO
Lost River Electric Cooperative, Inc.