

STATE OF IDAHO

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL LAWRENCE G. WASDEN

February 23, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Magalie R. Salas Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, NE Washington, DC 20426

Re: Motion of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to Intervene Out-of-Time,

Idaho Power's New License Application for the Hells Canyon Hydroelectric Project,

Docket No. P-1971-079

Dear Secretary Salas:

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission hereby submits electronically its Motion for Leave to Intervene Out-of-Time in the above-captioned proceeding, Docket No. P-1971-079 (Hells Canyon Project). Copies of this transmittal letter and Motion are being sent to each person designated on the official service list in this docket. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Donald L. Howell, II

Deputy Attorney General

Attorney for the Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Enclosures (Motion and Certificate of Service)

cc: Service List

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BEFORE THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

In the Matter of:)	
Idaho Power Company's)	DOCKET NO. P-1971-079
New License Application for the)	
HELLS CANYON HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT)	
)	

MOTION OF THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO INTERVENE OUT-OF-TIME

Pursuant to Rules 212 and 214 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's ("Commission") Rules of Procedure, 18 C.F.R. §§ 385.212 and 385.214, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("Idaho PuC") respectfully moves to intervene out-of-time in the above-captioned proceeding for the relicensing of Idaho Power Company's Hells Canyon Complex.

I. COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICE

The Idaho PUC requests that all communications and papers relating to this proceeding be directed to:

Randy Lobb
Administrator, Utilities Division
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
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Boise, ID 83720-0074
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E-mail: randy.lobb@puc.idaho.gov

The Idaho PUC requests that Mr. Lobb's name be added to the official service list for the above-captioned docket.

II. INTEREST OF PETITIONER

The Idaho PUC is the state regulatory commission empowered pursuant to Idaho Code Title 61 to regulate all public utilities operating within the State of Idaho. In this capacity, the Idaho PUC is responsible for regulating Idaho Power Company. *Idaho Code* § 61-501. Idaho Power Company owns and operates 17 hydroelectric facilities on the Snake River and its tributaries within the State of Idaho and provides electric service to more than 400,000 customers within Idaho. The Hells Canyon Complex is Idaho Power's largest hydroelectric project contributing approximately 60% of its hydro generation and, thus, the outcome of this proceeding may significantly affect its ratepayers. The rates and charges of Idaho Power are fully subject to the Idaho PUC's regulatory jurisdiction. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502, 61-508, 61-622. The Idaho PUC has a right of intervention pursuant to Commission Rule 214(a)(2) and has a definable interest in the outcome of this proceeding. 18 C.F.R. § 385.214(a)(2). The Idaho PUC's participation in this matter promotes the public interest.

III. GOOD CAUSE FOR A WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATION

Public notice of Idaho Power Company's Application for a new license was issued on December 3, 2003, and the due date for Motions to Intervene was February 2, 2004.

In September 2004, various parties to the proceeding and other interested persons met to discuss the formation of a settlement working group ("SWG") to consider and resolve issues associated with interim operations and the issuance of a new license for the Hells Canyon Complex. The initial objective of the SWG was to address interim

operations and anadromous species listed under the Endangered Species Act in an effort to provide agreed-upon measures to the Commission by April 2005. On January 7, 2005, Idaho Power filed an Interim Agreement with the Commission regarding current operations.

The next objective of the SWG is to negotiate a comprehensive settlement agreement to support the relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex. On February 1, 2005, Idaho Power requested that the Commission modify the relicensing schedule by delaying the issuance of the Notice of Ready for Environmental Analysis until September 2005. The request was supported by 21 of the parties. On February 8, 2005, the Office of Energy Projects extended the due date for filing recommendations and conditions until November 2005 to allow the parties to continue their settlement efforts.

The Idaho PUC intends to participate in the negotiations related to a comprehensive settlement agreement, which commenced on January 11, 2005. Because any settlement agreement would have to be filed with the Commission for review and approval, the Idaho PUC desires to become a party to the proceedings to ensure that its interests and those of Idaho ratepayers are represented before the Commission with regard to any proposed settlement. The Idaho PUC's participation in this proceeding will also facilitate development of a more complete record and thereby ensuring a more informed decision-making process, which is consistent with the public interest.

Waiver of the time limit established by the public notice for intervention will not result in any disruption to this proceeding. The Idaho PUC has been monitoring the relicensing proceedings to date. The Idaho PUC does not seek to introduce new evidence

at this time, and agrees to accept the record of this proceeding as developed prior to its intervention. Therefore, there will be no prejudice or additional burden upon parties from permitting the Idaho PUC's intervention. In addition, there will be no issue of undue delay because, pursuant to 18 C.F.R. § 380.10(a)(1)(i) the Commission will provide an additional opportunity for timely interventions in this proceeding following issuance of the draft Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") for comment.

For the foregoing reasons, the Idaho PUC submits that good cause exists to waive the time limitation to Rule 214 and allow intervention out-of-time.

IV. CONCLUSION

Wherefore, the Idaho PUC respectfully requests that the Commission grant its Motion to Intervene Out-of-Time as a party with full rights to participate in all further proceedings.

RESPECTFULLY submitted this 23rd day of February 2005.

FOR THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Vld/N:FERC:P-1971-079_dh_Intervention

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document has been served upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding by electronic mailing (where available) and by first-class mail otherwise.

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