

2012 JAM 20 PH 3: 18

JASON B. WILLIAMS Corporate Counsel jwilliams@idahopower.com UTILITIES COMMISSION

January 20, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY

Jean D. Jewell, Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission 472 West Washington Street Boise, Idaho 83702

Re:

Case No. IPC-E-11-08

General Rate Case

Dear Ms. Jewell:

Enclosed for filing are an original and seven (7) copies of Idaho Power Company's Petition for Clarification in the above matter.

Very truly yours,

Jason B. Williams

JBW:csb Enclosures LISA D. NORDSTROM (ISB No. 5733)
JASON B. WILLIAMS (ISB No. 8718)
Idaho Power Company
1221 West Idaho Street (83702)
P.O. Box 70

Boise, Idaho 83707

Telephone: (208) 388-5825 Facsimile: (208) 388-6936 Inordstrom@idahopower.com jwilliams@idahopower.com

Attorneys for Idaho Power Company

RECEIVED

2017 JAN 20 PM 3: 18

IDARO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF IDAHO POWER COMPANY FOR) CASE NO. IPC-E-11-08
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES)
AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC) IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S
SERVICE IN IDAHO.) PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION

COMES NOW, Idaho Power Company ("Idaho Power" or "Company"), by and through its undersigned counsel, and hereby petitions the Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") to clarify, pursuant to RP 325, certain issues related to facilities charges as set forth in Order No. 32426. This Petition is based on the following:

I. BACKGROUND

1. On June 1, 2011, Idaho Power filed an Application in this case seeking authority to increase the Company's base rates an average of 9.9 percent or by approximately \$83 million annually. On June 22, 2011, the Commission suspended the proposed effective date and issued a Notice of Application. Order No. 32272.

Numerous parties petitioned for intervention, all of which were granted by the Commission. On August 5, 2011, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order and set a technical hearing for early December 2011. Order No. 32316. The Scheduling Order also set dates for settlement conferences on August 31, 2011, and September 8, 2011.

- 2. All parties attended the settlement conferences. Based upon discussions at the settlement conferences, all parties (except one) entered into a settlement stipulation ("Stipulation") that proposed to settle most, but not all issues. Specifically, the settling parties could not reach agreement on three issues: (1) the amount of funding for the Company's low-income weatherization program; (2) the surcharge level for the Energy Efficiency Rider; and (3) the methodology used to assess facilities charges. The Commission conducted a technical hearing on December 5 and 6, 2011, to take evidence on the Stipulation and unresolved issues.
- 3. On December 30, 2011, the Commission issued an Order approving the Stipulation as well as issued findings and conclusions related to the three unresolved issues identified above. Order No. 32426.
- 4. With regard to the facilities charge methodology, which is the subject of this Petition, the Commission made the following findings:
- a. The rate of return component used in the Company's facilities charge calculation was to be updated to reflect the overall rate of return of 7.86 percent that was approved in the Stipulation;
- b. The Company must remove the rate of return, depreciation expense, and income tax components for facilities subject to the facilities charge that

are more than 31 years old, thus creating two rate categories for facilities charges—i.e., one for facilities 31 years old or less and another for facilities more than 31 years old;

- c. Any impacts to the Company's overall revenue requirement as a result of the Commission's ordered changes to the facilities charge methodology are to be allocated to those specific customer classes in which the change to the facilities charge methodology is made; and
- d. Directed the Company to update all cost components that comprise the facilities charge each time the Company files a general rate case.
- 5. In addition, the Commission ordered the Company to submit a compliance filling reflecting these new facilities charge provisions no later than January 13, 2012. The Company timely submitted that filling and included in that a number of assumptions. Idaho Power seeks clarification of those assumptions as well as some additional issues identified herein and described below.

II. PETITION FOR CLARIFICATION

- 6. As ordered by the Commission, the Company removed the rate of return, depreciation, and income tax components for the facilities charge rate that will be applied to facilities more than 31 years old. The resultant rate is 0.59 percent. The Company hereby asks that the Commission confirm that this is the appropriate rate for facilities that are more than 31 years in age.
- 7. Idaho Power only tracks facilities based upon the year in which those facilities were installed; the Company does not track the specific date or month when facilities are installed. For the purposes of determining whether the 31-year or less facilities charge rate applies versus the more than 31-year rate, the Company will make

this reconciliation once a year based upon year-end facilities investment records and adjust customers' monthly facilities charge rates accordingly at the beginning of each calendar year. In addition, because Idaho Power only tracks facilities based upon the year those facilities are installed, the Company assumes that all facilities are installed for a full year regardless of the actual month or date such facilities were installed. The Company hereby asks that the Commission confirm this approach as appropriate.

- 8. The Company's general rate case filing included adjusted actual 2010 facilities charge revenue based upon the Company's proposed reduction to the monthly facilities charge rate. As part of the compliance filing submitted on January 13, 2012, including the adjustments impacting base rate revenues of specific customer classes as a result of the Commission's ordered change to the facilities charge methodology, the Company used year-end 2011 facilities charge investment records to determine the appropriate ratios to apply to the 2010 facilities charge investments in order to incorporate the two rate categories (i.e., the 31 years or less category or the more than 31 years category) based on the age of the facilities at the end of 2011. The Company hereby asks the Commission to confirm this approach as appropriate.
- 9. The Company does not individually track facilities subject to the facilities charge for Schedules 15 and 41. In addition, the Company no longer offers the facilities charge service to new customers under Schedules 15 and 41. Accordingly, the Company will continue to only apply a single rate (one which includes the rate of return, depreciation, and income tax components) to facilities subject to the facilities charge for Schedules 15 and 41 customers. The Company hereby asks the Commission to confirm this approach as appropriate.

10. The Company submitted its compliance filing on January 13, 2012, including updated tariff pages with a proposed effective date of February 1, 2012. Importantly, because facilities charge customers are billed on a calendar month basis, if the Commission does not approve the tariffs to be effective on February 1, 2012, the Company respectfully requests the Commission set the effective date for the first day of the month immediately following the Commission's Order on this Petition. The Company is currently assessing only a single facilities charge rate (one which includes the rate of return, depreciation, and income tax components) for the month of January 2012 and will continue to do so until the Commission approves the Company's tariffs that were submitted on January 13, 2012. The Company hereby asks the Commission to confirm this approach.

III. CONCLUSION

NOW, THEREFORE, Idaho Power respectfully requests the Commission issue an Order clarifying the following:

- 1. That 0.59 percent is the correct rate to be assessed on facilities that are more than 31 years in age;
- 2. That the Company shall make only annual adjustments to facilities for purposes of determining which rate (i.e., the 31 years or less rate or the more than 31 years rate) applies to facilities subject to the facilities charge;
- 3. That the Commission accept the Company's use of 2011 facilities charge investments and the age of facilities at year-end 2011 for purposes of implementing the compliance filing;

- 4. That the Company only assess a single facilities charge rate (i.e., one that includes rate of return, depreciation, and income tax components) for facilities charges for Schedules 15 and 41 customers; and
- 5. That the effective date of any tariffs associated with the compliance filing be effective on the first day of the month immediately following the Commission's Order on this Petition.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of January 2012.

JASON B. WILLIAMS

Attorney for Idaho Power Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 20th day of January 2012 I served a true and correct copy of the within and foregoing IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S PETITION FOR CLARIFICAITON upon the following named parties by the method indicated below, and addressed to the following:

Donald L. Howell, II Karl T. Klein Deputy Attorneys General Idaho Public Utilities Commission 472 West Washington (83702) P.O. Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0074	U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email Don.Howell@puc.idaho.gov Karl.Klein@puc.idaho.gov
Industrial Customers of Idaho Power Peter J. Richardson Gregory M. Adams RICHARDSON & O'LEARY, PLLC 515 North 27 th Street (83702) P.O. Box 7218 Boise, Idaho 83707	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email peter@richardsonandoleary.com greg@richardsonandoleary.com
Dr. Don Reading Ben Johnson Associates, Inc. 6070 Hill Road Boise, Idaho 83703	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX_Email_dr@benjohnsonassociates.com
Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association, Inc. Eric L. Olsen RACINE, OLSON, NYE, BUDGE & BAILEY, CHARTERED 201 East Center P.O. Box 1391 Pocatello, Idaho 83204-1391	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email elo@racinelaw.net
Anthony Yankel 29814 Lake Road Bay Village, Ohio 44140	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAX X Email tony@yankel.net

The Kroger Co. Kurt J. Boehm BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY 36 East Seventh Street, Suite 1510 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX_Email_kboehm@BKLlawfirm.comirh@battfisher.com
Kevin Higgins Energy Strategies, LLC 215 South State Street, Suite 200 Salt Lake City, Utah 84111	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX_Email_khiggins@energystrat.com
Micron Technology, Inc. Mary V. York HOLLAND & HART, LLP 101 South Capital Boulevard, Suite 1400 Boise, Idaho 83702	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email myork@hollandhart.com tnelson@hollandhart.com madavidson@hollandhart.com fschmidt@hollandhart.com Inbuchanan@hollandhart.com
Richard E. Malmgren Senior Assistant General Counsel Micron Technology, Inc. 800 South Federal Way Boise, Idaho 83716	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX_Email_remalmgren@micron.com
The United States Department of Energy Arthur Perry Bruder, Attorney-Advisor United States Department of Energy 1000 Independence Avenue SW Washington, DC 20585	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email Arthur.bruder@hq.doe.gov Steven.porter@hq.doe.gov
Dwight D. Etheridge Exeter Associates, Inc. 10480 Little Patuxent Parkway, Suite 300 Columbia, Maryland 21044	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAX X Email detheridge@exeterassociates.com

Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho Brad M. Purdy Attorney at Law 2019 North 17 th Street Boise, Idaho 83702	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email bmpurdy@hotmail.com
Idaho Conservation League Benjamin J. Otto Idaho Conservation League 710 North Sixth Street (83702) P.O. Box 844 Boise, Idaho 83701	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email botto@idahoconservation.org
Snake River Alliance Ken Miller Snake River Alliance P.O. Box 1731 Boise, Idaho 83701	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX_Email_kmiller@snakeriveralliance.org
NW Energy Coalition Nancy Hirsh, Policy Director NW Energy Coalition 811 First Avenue, Suite 305 Seattle, Washington 98104	 Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email nancy@nwenergy.org
Hoku Materials, Inc. Dean J. Miller McDEVITT & MILLER LLP 420 East Bannock (83702) P.O. Box 2564 Boise, Idaho 83701	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight MailFAXX Email joe@mcdevitt-miller.com heather@mcdevitt-miller.com
Scott Paul, CEO Hoku Materials, Inc. One Hoku Way Pocatello, Idaho 83204	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail Overnight Mail FAX X Email spaul@hokucorp.com
	Jason B. Williams