

Diane Holt

From: bevandmike@q.com
Sent: Friday, June 21, 2019 1:47 PM
To: Beverly Barker; Diane Holt; Erik Jorgensen; Matthew Evans
Subject: Case Comment Form: Mike Sheeley

Name: Mike Sheeley
Case Number: IPC-E-18-15
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Boise Idaho, 83703

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Comment: We had a small (7.5kw) residential solar panel system installed in 2014. When deciding to install that system we considered a number of matters as follows: the initial cost outlay; the federal tax credit; the effect of net metering; and, of equal importance, the benefit to the environment. We made our decision to install the system based, in no small part, on the details of net metering as they then existed. Since that point in time, it appears to me that Idaho Power has, contrary to its espoused adoption of "green philosophies" engaged in an ongoing and systematic effort to undercut the production of alternative energy in Idaho. It seems patently unfair to allow people to expend significant amounts of money on solar panels in reliance based upon existing net metering standards and thereafter endeavor to change the rules of the game. That conduct not only devalues our existing solar panel system but also has a chilling effect on future alternative energy projects in the state.

I think the following matters are also worthy of consideration. First, our solar panel system sends energy to the grid during periods of high demand which directly benefits Idaho Power. Secondly, the energy our system sends to the grid only travels short distances to our neighbors which minimizes any loss in transmission. Thirdly, Idaho Power receives amounts of energy produced by our system without having had to make any capital investment in hardware.

It should also be noted in the context of possible fixed rates/fees that solar panels decrease in efficiency over time, which could result in a situation where rates remain fixed while a system's production declines.

I sincerely hope that the members of PUC consider the value to all Idaho Power customers of the lack of harmful emissions avoided by alternative energy production. In light of its continued reliance upon coal fired power plants, Idaho Power should be undertaking every possible effort to promote the installation of solar panels on its customers' homes rather than attempting to discourage such efforts.

I request that the PUC retain net metering with all its current rules and standards.

Thank you.

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