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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

IPC-E-18-15 and

Comments on Case Number: IPC-E-18-16 Fixed Cost Recovery

Hello IPUC,

I tried to submit via your web form but my comment submission created some type of error.

My wife and I consider ourselves to be "pragmatic environmentalists" which basically means if we can support sustainable environmental policies through our actions and investments, we will take action. Our home net metering solar system went on-line early Jan 2018 and so far we have been able to generate about 80% of our household electrical requirements. In addition to the solar investment, we also purchased a full electric car and began a renovation process in our house and lifestyle to add/replace/upgrade appliances, lighting, home automation and our usage behaviors. Our plan was financially based with break-even periods calculated for the bigger investments including the solar system. If IPUC/Idaho Power change the net metering schedule to recover a fairer share of fixed power grid costs, you will materially change the ROI equation that primarily drove our decision. I can only imagine how a schedule change would impact the ROI for any potential future solar system customers and the direct impact on their potential break-even. Personally, we think this is a bad strategy and would much prefer to see IPUC / Idaho Power adopt a policy that encourages expansion of the solar power generators in Idaho. Our suggestion is to create a phased approach to allow the early solar adopters to enjoy the economic benefits currently in place with schedule 84.

Two other points should be mentioned as well: with the tremendous growth Idaho is experiencing, we are concerned about purchasing power outside our own state generated through the consumption of fossil fuels like coal. We have always been proud of our high percentage of renewal power generation and think that solar and wind-based systems can augment hydroelectric and geothermal which are likely at capacity. Additionally, solar generators produce the maximum power during peak electrical demand periods in July and August. Effectively, solar can help buffer the surge demand much like the AC Cool Credit program does.

Thanks for the consideration. Let's do the right thing for Idaho and the environment when it makes clear financial sense and is a good sustainability policy.

Regards,

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