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IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Attorney for the Idaho Conservation League

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER)
COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR)
AUTHORITY TO STUDY THE)
MEASUREMENT INTERVAL)
COMPENSATION STRUCTURE, AND)
VALUE OF NET EXCESS ENERGY FOR)
ON-SITE GENERATION UNDER)
SCHEDULE 84 AND TO)
TEMPORARILY SUSPEND SCHEDULE)
84 NET METERING SERVICE TO NEW)
IDAHO APPLICANTS.)

CASE NO. IPC-E-19-15

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF THE
IDAHO CONSERVATION LEAGUE

COMES NOW the Idaho Conservation League ("ICL") and hereby requests leave to intervene in the above captioned matter pursuant to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.071-073. As discussed below, ICL has direct and substantial interests in these proceedings, and therefore should be granted intervention.

1. The name of this intervenor is:

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Please provide copies of all pleadings, production requests, production responses, Commission orders, and other documents to the name and address above. In the interest of conserving natural resources and reducing the costs to all parties, please provide hard copies of pleadings, testimony, and briefs only. Production requests, responses, notices, Commission

orders, and other filings may be submitted via electronic mail in accordance with IPUC Rules 31.01.01.063.02-03.

2. ICL claims a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding in order to protect our interests as a Schedule 9 and Schedule 84 customer. Idaho Power's Application asks to change the metering interval and compensation structure for Schedule 84 customers, which could frustrate the financial justification for our rooftop solar system. Since installing the system in 2016, ICL has remained a monthly net importer of utility power. We rely on our system to control our energy bills by mitigating our exposure to the volatility inherent in Idaho Power's rate mechanisms such as the Power Cost Adjustment. A change that undercuts our ability to mitigate rate volatility will require ICL to shift funds from our work advocating for public values and allocate more of our member's contributions to paying Idaho Power.

3. ICL also claims a direct and substantial interest in this proceeding as a party to the currently underway dockets IPC-18-15 and IPC-E-18-16 where we have been collaborating through workshops to address the issues of valuing exports from customer-owned generation systems and the proper methodology and spread of fixed costs. *See Order No 34274*. Idaho Power's unannounced, expedited request throws a wrench into these previously cooperative workshops by seeking to expand the parties involved in IPC-E-18-15 well after the intervention deadline, and creating uncertainty about scope the issues addressed in IPC-E-18-16. We seek to protect our interests in those dockets from any unwarranted impacts from Idaho Power's Application here.

4. Because we are seeking to protect our existing interests in the issues raised by Idaho Power Application ICL's intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in this proceeding.

5. ICL intends to fully participate in this matter as a party. The nature and quality of ICL's intervention in the proceeding is dependant upon the nature and effect of other evidence in this proceeding. At this stage ICL believes a technical hearing is necessary to fully address this issue and thus we may introduce evidence, be heard in argument, and call, examine, and cross-examine witnesses. ICL intends to seek intervenor funding pursuant to IDAPA 31.01.01.161-165.

Opposition to Expedited Processing and Retroactive Applicability

6. ICL objects to Idaho Power's request for "Expedited Consideration", a term that is not found in the Idaho PUC's Rules of Procedure, because such extraordinary action is unnecessary to address system reliability or other impacts to customers. When presented with major changes to Schedule 84 in 2013, this Commission advised Idaho Power "that it would enhance consideration of future major program-specific changes if it informed and obtained feedback from its customers and other stakeholders before proposing them." *Order No 32846 at 5*. Idaho Power's Application here does establish any such effort. While the Company does include a letter from the Irrigation Pumpers Association, they provide no evidence they contacted the other impacted rate classes prior to making this specific filing. ICL did receive an informal phone call approximately two weeks ago from Idaho Power indicating they were contemplating the filing, but this conversation was in the context of the currently underway dockets IPC-E-18-15 and IPC-E-18-16 and not in the context of ICL being a Schedule 9 and 84 customer currently. At that time ICL made clear we understand Idaho Power's concerns about growth of customer-owned generation in the Irrigation class, but opposed any need to treat this as an emergency, recommitted to the collaborative processes already underway, and reiterated our offer to address the marketing techniques of certain solar companies by, for example, implementing the consumer protection bill recently signed into law by Governor Little. Further, the Company provided no notice to ICL upon filing this Application on late Friday April 5 despite having

workshops scheduled in these dockets for April 9 and 10. Instead of taking the Commission's advice to work with impacted customers and stakeholders, Idaho Power's Application here upsets the current collaborative processes.

7. Idaho Power's Application and Testimony do not even attempt to argue extraordinary procedure is required to meet a system reliability issue. ICL agrees because the addition of 3.29 MW of new distributed energy systems to the 1.09 MW of existing systems is a negligible amount in comparison to the irrigation class demands. Further, Idaho Power's allegation of "informal inquires" is entirely speculative. While the Application uses some scary looking percentage numbers, the true growth of distributed energy systems in the irrigation class is essentially a rounding error compared to the irrigation class sales.

8. Idaho Power's Application does allege a potential cost shift, but again does not back up this allegation with factual evidence or a true analysis of changes to the cost of service results. As this Commission found less than one year ago, distributed energy systems "the costs to serve on-site generation customers may be lower than the cost to serve their current class members." *Order No. 34046 at 19*. Yet, Idaho Power continues to ignore this finding and lobs allegations of "inappropriate cost shifting." *Application at 6*. Instead of creating yet another docket to muddy the waters, ICL believes the more efficient and fair course of action is for the Commission to direct Idaho Power to return to the corporative workshops addressing the cost of service issues established in IPC-E-18-16.

9. Idaho Power's Application also alleges that a large solar system procured through a negotiated rate, or an unused and blackbox-negotiated Schedule 86 rate, are somehow a reasonable proxy for the value of customer owned generation located on the distribution system. *Application at 6*. After alleging these completely different rates designed for resources not owned

by customers are somehow applicable to customer-owned generation, the Company requests to complete their process by January 2020. *Application at 9.* This argument undercuts the collaborative work the parties have accomplished thus far in IPC-E-18-15 to establish a “through and data-driven evaluation of Idaho Power’s on-sire generation program” as ordered by the Commission. *Order No. 34046 at 22.* The Commission should reject this attempt to subvert Order No 34046 and the progress made in IPC-E-18-15 and order Idaho Power to return to the cooperating table.

10. ICL objects to Idaho Power’s request for retroactive applicability of the suspension of Schedule 84. We join the objection filed by the Idaho Clean Energy Association on this issue. For efficiency sake, we do not repeat those arguments here.

WHEREFORE, ICL respectfully requests the Commission grant this petition.

Respectfully submitted this 15th day of April 2019.



Benjamin J. Otto
Idaho Conservation League

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of April, 2019, I delivered true and correct copies of the foregoing PETITION TO INTERVENE to the following persons via the method of service noted:

Hand delivery:

Diane Hanian
Commission Secretary (Original and seven copies provided)
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
427 W. Washington St.
Boise, ID 83702-5983

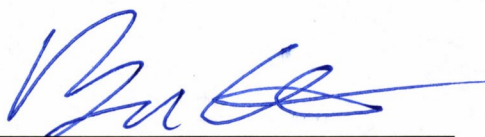
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