

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER'S)	CASE NO. IPC-E-20-23
TARIFF ADVICE FOR AUTHORITY TO)	
TEMPORARILY MODIFY SCHEDULE 8)	
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR)	ORDER NO. 34686
SMALL GENERAL SERVICE ON-SITE)	
GENERATION CUSTOMERS)	

On May 6, 2020, Idaho Power submitted an Application to temporarily modify Schedule 8, Small General Service On-site Generation ("Schedule 8") to allow customers whose usage would otherwise require them to move to Schedule 9, Large General Service ("Schedule 9") to voluntarily remain under Schedule 8 through December 31, 2020 or until the Commission approves changes to the Schedule 84 meter configuration requirements. The Company's Application requested an effective date of June 5, 2020 and that the change be processed as a tariff advice, or alternatively, through Modified Procedure.

On June 1, 2020, Staff presented a Decision Memorandum at the Commission's regularly scheduled Decision Meeting recommending the Commission process the Company's request by a tariff advice and approve the Company's proposal with modification to the implementing language.

THE APPLICATION

The Company explains that customers on Schedule 8, Small General Service On-Site Generation ("Schedule 8"), whose metered energy usage exceeds 2,000 kilowatt hours ("kWh") per billing period three times during the most recent 12 consecutive billing periods no longer qualify for service under Schedule 8. Instead, these customers qualify for Schedule 9, Large General Service ("Schedule 9") and Schedule 84, Customer Energy Production Net Metering Service ("Schedule 84"). Application at 2. Among other differences, Schedule 84 requires two meters whereas Schedule 8 requires a single meter. *See id.*

The Company states it anticipates a future case examining its net metering service offerings, which would include an examination of the Schedule 84 dual-meter configuration. *Id.* at 3. Until then, the Company states its billing system is not presently configured to determine the correct billing units using a single meter under Schedule 9/Schedule 84. *Id.* Because the Company anticipates a possible change to the dual-meter configuration it proposed a temporary modification

to the language of Schedule 8 that would allow otherwise affected customers to avoid the expense and burden of moving to dual meters only to potentially have to move back to a single meter.

The Company states this change would be a time-limited and voluntary option that would benefit Schedule 8 customers and therefore the change qualifies as a “minor change” under the Commission’s rules defining matters appropriate for a tariff advice. *Id.* at 4-5. The Company requested the change to Schedule 8 state, “Effective until 12/31/2020, existing Schedule 8 customers who no longer meet the energy usage requirements of Schedule 8 can elect to remain on Schedule 8.”

COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Commission Staff recommended the Commission approve the Company’s request to provide relief to Schedule 8 customers that would otherwise be required to move to Schedule 84. Staff noted further differences between Schedule 8 and Schedule 84 billing and metering requirements. Staff stated it “believes the Company’s proposed temporary modification is reasonable because it will protect customers from unnecessary expense until this issue is fully addressed by the Commission, and therefore recommends that the Commission approve it.”

While Staff agreed with the intent of the Company’s proposal, Staff recommended different language that would tie expiration of the tariff advice to a final, non-appealable determination by the Commission regarding metering configuration for Schedule 84 customers. Staff proposed the tariff state, “Effective until a final order is issued that addresses metering configuration for Schedule 84 customers, and any appeal period has passed or the order has been upheld on appeal, existing Schedule 8 customers who no longer meet the energy usage requirement of Schedule 8 that ‘energy usage is 2,000 kWh, or less, per Billing Period for ten or more Billing Periods during the most recent 12 consecutive Billing Periods[,]’ can elect Schedule 8.” Staff stated this language would apply to Schedule 8 customers who have recently exceeded the Schedule 8 energy usage requirement but who have not installed the dual-meter configuration required by Schedule 84.

COMMISSION FINDINGS

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501, 61-502, and 61-503. The Commission is vested with the power to “supervise and regulate every public utility in the state and to do all things necessary to carry out the spirit and intent of the [Public Utilities Law].” *Idaho Code* § 61-501. The Commission is empowered to investigate

rates, charges, rules, regulations, practices, and contracts of public utilities and to determine whether they are just, reasonable, preferential, discriminatory, or in violation of any provision of law, and to fix the same by order. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503.

Under Commission Rule of Procedure 134, the Commission can process “minor changes” to the existing schedules of a utility without the process of Modified Procedure or hearings. “Public utilities may file tariffs adding new or modifying existing services, providing for new or modified rules, or otherwise making minor changes to existing schedules by tariff advice. . . .” IDAPA 31.01.01.134.01. “. . . In the absence of an order approving or suspending the tariff advice, the tariff advice not suspended or approved goes into effect thirty (30) days after filing or on the proposed effective date, whichever is later. . . .” IDAPA 31.01.01.134.02. The Commission approves the Company’s tariff advice as amended by Commission Staff.

The Commission finds this is a minor change that will benefit some Schedule 8 customers and will not be detrimental to other customers. The Commission finds that the language recommended by Commission Staff more effectively implements the Company’s stated purpose of proposing the tariff advice, which is to provide relief from unnecessary burden for impacted customers until a final Commission order addresses metering configuration for Schedule 84 customers. “This option will provide eligible customers an opportunity to avoid the installation of a second meter required for service under Schedule 9/Schedule 84 in the near-term.” Application at 3. Furthermore, the Company states, “The Company proposes this modification to Schedule 8 would remain in effect until December 31, 2020, or until an order is issued that addresses metering configuration for Schedule 84 customers.” *Id.*

By tying the termination of the Schedule 8 tariff advice to Commission approval of a change to the metering configuration in Schedule 84, the Commission will avoid the foreseeable and unnecessary administrative burden of addressing this issue again in December while also likely processing the Company’s proposed modifications to the Company’s net metering service offerings, as referenced by the Company.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company’s tariff advice is approved, as modified by Commission Staff in its May 28, 2020 Decision Memorandum.

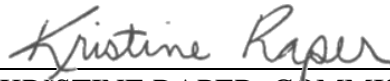
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company will expeditiously file conforming tariffs with the approved language, to be effective June 5, 2020.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* § 61-626.

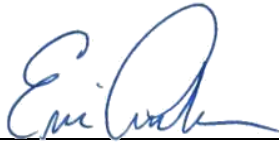
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 4th day of June 2020.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

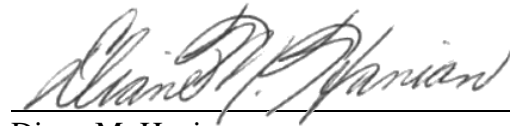


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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