

**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:00:13 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Lisa Hecht  
Submission Time: Oct 13 2020 6:12PM  
Email: [heartfeltsong@msn.com](mailto:heartfeltsong@msn.com)  
Telephone: 208-331-2159  
Address: 4920 E. Sagewood Drive  
Boise, ID 83716

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "Dear PUC Commissioners, Regarding Idaho Power's petition IPC-E-20-26: The PUC should apply the same grandfathering policy to all Idahoans - 25 years - because that is fair, just, and reasonable (the legal standard for rates and programs). The growth of customer-owned solar is not causing problems for Idaho Power or other customers. The utility is meeting all revenues needs, investors are happy, the grid is stable. Changing the net metering program harms participants with no meaningful benefit for others. So instead of assuming the need to change, let's study the issue first. Idaho Power should be helping farmers control their operating costs to ensure Idaho's large and important agricultural sector can recover economically from the disastrous effects of both tariff wars and COVID-19. Placing barriers to customer owned solar is not helpful, nor is it fair to farmers who have invested their hard-earned capital to minimize future costs and risks. Farming is risky enough without introducing this potential added harm and uncertainty. I hope that in your role as PUC Commissioners you will provide this thoughtful protection. Sincerely, Lisa Hecht "

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**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 2:00:04 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Isaac Santos  
Submission Time: Oct 14 2020 1:50PM  
Email: [isantos20@my.whitworth.edu](mailto:isantos20@my.whitworth.edu)  
Telephone: 253-886-4859  
Address: 4004 E King Rd  
Kuna, ID 83634

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "As a customer of Idaho Power, I feel a need to comment on your recent decision to reduce your support of solar power installation by farmers. Where I live, in rural Kuna, I drive past countless farms on my commute into Boise. I am confronted daily with the plots of land and the individuals who provide food for our community and beyond. And I understand that the general trend over the last century has been unequivocal: it is getting harder for most farmers to make a living. Farmers are the foundation of our society, and they deserve our utmost respect and support. We should be making it easier, not more difficult, for farmers to raise future generations of land stewards, and to put food on their own tables. The current solar energy program is an incredible example of helping farmers. All customers, especially farmers, should have a right to increase their capacity to harness sustainable energy. Idaho Power is hoping to achieve "100% clean energy by 2045." By limiting the ability of your customers, and in this case, customers who also have a stake in producing food for our region and beyond, you are not only harming their ability to make wise financial decisions. You are harming your own goals toward sustainability, and therein taking an active step against the positive clean energy development that is needed as soon as possible in order to reduce the impacts of global climate change. The increase in solar-powered irrigation should be welcomed as a sign that Idaho Power is helping farmers meet energy needs while supporting a much-needed shift in our society toward renewable energy sources. Idaho Public Utilities Commission requested that you complete a thorough study on the value of customer solar energy usage before reducing net metering credits. Your decision to do this on December 1, 2020, violates this request. Furthermore, your decision to end the comment period while many farmers are exceedingly busy harvesting is an unfair and undemocratic use of a tool that is meant to gauge the authentic, widespread community response to a proposed policy. In light of these realities, I ask as a customer of Idaho Power, a consumer of Idaho crops, and a global citizen concerned about the potential consequences of climate change, that you reconsider this latest policy. I ask that you: 1. Wait to 'grandfather' those already receiving the current rate of net metering benefits until after you complete a fair solar value study. 2. 'Grandfather' for 25 years, "

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**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:00:03 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Narda Pitkethly  
Submission Time: Oct 15 2020 9:22AM  
Email: [narda44@gmail.com](mailto:narda44@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-720-4401  
Address: PO Box 6049  
Ketchum, ID 83340

Name of Utility Company: ID Public Utilities Commission

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "Please uphold the previous decision and once again reject Idaho Power's proposed modifications to its net-metering compensation program. Thank you!"

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**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 12:00:04 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Kim Mazik  
Submission Time: Oct 15 2020 11:54AM  
Email: kmazik@cox.net  
Telephone: 208-309-0281  
Address: 105 Cottonwood Circle  
Hailey, ID 83333

Name of Utility Company: ID Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "I am not a farmer but have friends who are and understand that power costs are among the most expensive inputs to farms with irrigation pumps. To control costs and be more self-reliant, farmers across Idaho are choosing to install solar panels. Why though is Idaho Power trying to end the current net metering program before creating any replacement program.? Removing this dual-meter requirement for new systems starting lays the foundation for lowering the net metering credit rate, which would have a big impact on the investments of current and future solar owners. Shouldn't their efforts to reduce environmental impact be rewarded? Let's continue to support our farmers "

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**From:** [Bruce Smithhammer <bruce@cesolar.com>](mailto:bruce@cesolar.com)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Solar for Idaho Farmers  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 10:21:44 AM

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Dear Commissioner,

I am taking the time to write today to voice my opposition to Idaho Power's latest attempt to de-incentivize net-metered power generation in our state.

I live in a rural, agricultural community, as many of us in Idaho do, and these proposed changes represent a negative impact on our community and the ability of our farmers and business owners to make independent decisions that benefit their businesses, as well as the power grid in general.

Idaho Power asserts that irrigators will add about 16 megawatts of solar systems, while its overall system can serve more than 3,600 megawatts (graph). This means that individual solar systems are important for individual farmers but have no meaningful impact on Idaho Power's total system. Net metering is for individuals who want to invest their own money in their own farm.

Idaho Power is proposing a cutoff date of December 1, 2020 for solar-owners to lock-in the current net metering program, so anyone who wants to go solar after that date will essentially be asked to "wait and see" as the utility goes through the process of developing a new program with different export credits. By creating uncertainty in the marketplace, Idaho Power makes it nearly impossible for any farmer to make the financial decision to invest in solar, and drives solar jobs and businesses out of the state, like we've seen with the residential program.

While Idaho Power does not propose to change what they pay for customers' excess solar energy now, they are laying a foundation to try and slash that rate in the future, as we saw with their residential program. This local power is extra valuable because it supports your neighbors and community instead of relying on long-distance power lines and far-flung power plants.

It's also worth pointing out that this proposed change and the public comment period are happening during fall harvest.

Idaho Power proposes to move existing systems under the current net metering program into a legacy treatment for 10 years. But the Idaho Public Utilities Commission just told Idaho Power to use legacy treatment of residential net-metering for 25 years, which is a much more reasonable timeline given that solar is a 25+ year investment

Idaho stands for resiliency, independence and limited government intervention. Let's support those core values in our approach to power as well.

Sincerely,

Bruce Smithhammer  
Victor, Idaho

Bruce Smithhammer  
Technical Sales Manager - Teton Valley, ID | Creative  
Energies Solar [bruce@CESolar.com](mailto:bruce@CESolar.com)  
Ph 208.428.7101  
[CESolar.com](http://CESolar.com) | Utah • Wyoming • Idaho

**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2020 12:00:04 PM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Mike Sullivan  
Submission Time: Oct 16 2020 11:21AM  
Email: [vitalsull@gmail.com](mailto:vitalsull@gmail.com)  
Telephone: 208-240-4636  
Address: 1025 W. Fremont st.  
Pocatello, ID 83204

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-18-15

Comment: " Dear PUC, I would like to comment on your proposal to reduce the compensation of individuals who produce solar power for your grid. •The individuals who have invested in solar energy, to help reduce their energy costs and help improve the world we live in need to have a stable idea of what costs they will incur over time, in order to live within their means. •When rates shift around, the consumer base is destabilized and your intent of moving towards clean energy is undermined. Those who have invested should have the rate they entered with. This will improve the confidence in the program and encourage them to speak well of it. This will help attract more consumers into the solar market, and increase your base of clean energy production. This increase will more than offset the cost of continuing the current rates by reducing your costs of producing energy. •New customers coming into the market may need to pay more than those that already exist, but chances are that their solar equipment will also cost them less. •Going back on your word is like a teacher changing their grading system in midstream, and being a teacher, I know how bad that would work. •A system that is Fair – Firm – Consistent will serve you well! Thanks for taking this into consideration Mike Sullivan"

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# B&H FARMING

RECEIVED

2020 OCT 16 AM 9:30

IDAHO PUBLIC  
UTILITIES COMMISSION

October 12, 2020

Randy Bauscher, B&H Farming  
PO Box 123  
Rupert, ID 83350

My name is Randy Bauscher, I am a farmer and am involved in 3 100kW solar units on our farm.

I would like to state my concerns about the Net Metering program for Irrigators and Commercial customers.

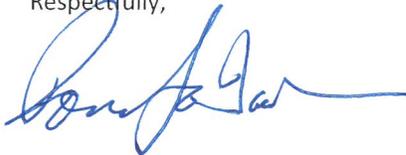
I also feel that the current program, in its entirety, be grandfathered. This would cover aggregation across congruent property and yearly movement of credit transfers at an energy credit. We used the rules available to invest in solar, it is very unfair to change the rules mid-stream!

I utilized federal programs that are encouraging green energy development to fund my project. Like any investment, the decisions are vetted very thoroughly, and the abstract approach that began in 2019 made it very difficult to do accurate analysis of solar projects.

I feel that the irrigation class should be treated the same for the consistency of programs. Another note is that as an irrigator, under the current system, I will be paying a demand charge on all offset stations, resulting in even less impact on the customer class as a whole versus the residential one meter, non-demand charge system. On another note, I specifically designed my system based on a 25-year warranty panel.

I believe we should continue to have the opportunity to make our irrigation systems more efficient through any way possible; pivots, high efficiency pumps, VFD's, solar panels, or whatever is available. Commodity prices often do not check with input costs and in order to survive and keep Idaho's agricultural community thriving, we should be able to use tools such as the Net Metering Program to compete on a national and global scale.

Respectfully,



Randy Bauscher

B&H Farming



**PO BOX 123**  
**Rupert, ID 83350**

**PHONE (208) 436-0292**  
**FAX (208) 436-1261**  
**Email [vicky@bhfarming.com](mailto:vicky@bhfarming.com)**