

**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 7:00:05 AM

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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Jody Mahnken  
Submission Time: Oct 21 2020 9:04PM  
Email: mahnkenj@juno.com  
Telephone: 208-672-9284  
Address: 4140 Oxbow Way  
Boise, ID 83713

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: " Solar power is a win win for farmers and ranchers. Farmers deserve a fair and assessable solar program to help meet their energy needs, stabilize their energy costs, and build resilience. Irrigation costs are one of the most expensive for farmers. They use solar power and sell the excess for net metering to Idaho Power. Now Idaho Power is trying to stifle the current net metering program by preventing any other ranchers or farmers from signing up after Dec. 1,2020. Idaho Power hasn't created any replacement program. Require Idaho Power to establish new and fair export rates before closing the window on its current program. Net metering is for individuals who want to invest their own money in their own farm. We need to protect a farmer's right to control their own power bills with home-grown energy. Currently, farms and businesses can only install up to 100 kilowatts of solar per meter. Many business and irrigation pumps require much more power than that. This arbitrary 100 kilowatt cap means a business or farmer cannot offset all of their own needs and must then buy from Idaho Power. Allow farmers the freedom to invest in a solar system that's large enough to meet their energy needs. 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. Pass fair rules that treat farmers the same as everyone else and value their hard-earned investments. Please encourage farmers, ranchers and home owners to move to solar power to improve our environment and move away from dirty coal plants. Give farmers and ranchers the opportunity to sell back through net metering to Idaho Power at a fair rate. Eliminate caps on kilowatt size and allow a full 25 years on their investment,since they have purchased solar panels to improve their farms, ranches and homes. Allow this wonderful solar resource to grow in Idaho. Thank you for listening "

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**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:00:04 AM

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The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Stanford McConnehey  
Submission Time: Oct 21 2020 9:01AM  
Email: stanfordb@me.com  
Telephone: 208-954-4776  
Address: 5736 N Collister Dr.  
Boise, ID 83703

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "I urge you to reject the attempts by Idaho Power to change net-metering rates. This is nothing more than simple money-grubbing for the sake of the giant corporate shareholders of their parent company, Idacorp. All efforts should be taken to keep solar-energy accessible for individuals and small group. Fair export-credit rates make this possible. "

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Name: Sandra Sherman  
Submission Time: Oct 21 2020 9:13AM  
Email: sandyjames411@hotmail.com  
Telephone: 310-722-7393  
Address: 10315 W Whispering Cliffs Dr  
Boise, ID 83704

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "Farmers need solar for their farms! Farmers are already struggling in this country and we need to support them any way we can. Especially when it can help the environment. "

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Name: Sydney Schildnecht  
Submission Time: Oct 21 2020 9:26AM  
Email: sschildnecht@gmail.com  
Telephone: 203-940-3640  
Address: 921 N 8th St  
Coeur d Alene, ID 83814

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "The proposal to change the net metering program at Idaho Power is disgraceful to our state's farmers, who deserve to have the choice to go solar and be more self-sufficient and independent, at a scale that serves their business. Energy input to run irrigation systems is a huge expense in an industry with ever-diminishing margins. Individual solar systems are important for individual farmers but have no meaningful impact on Idaho Power's total system. 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. This proposed change and the public comment period are also happening during fall harvest. Please extend the comment period to demonstrate Idaho's commitment to its farmers. As it stands, you are first threatening to take away an existing choice that is both financially and environmentally sustainable, and then doing so when farmers are too busy feeding our state and our nation to speak up about it. It's undemocratic. Know that any choice to lower export credit rates will result in action from your constituents. Please consider putting action behind your stated support of Idaho farmers by allowing more than 100 kilowatts of solar systems to be allowed per meter to truly allow to access the benefits of solar. Additionally, please do not move this system into legacy after 10 years; follow the action you just enacted for the residential solar system at 25 years."

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Name: Linda Maguire  
Submission Time: Oct 21 2020 9:53AM  
Email: oyezican@hotmail.com  
Telephone: 208-398-8002  
Address: 2695 Mesa Avenue  
Emmett, ID 83617

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "Too many farmers want solar energy to irrigate. Really? They are moving too fast. Really? Will someone please tell Idaho Power that an impending climate disaster is also moving pretty rapidly. There case for slowing solar development is without merit in my opinion."

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**From:** [PUC Consumer Comments](#)  
**To:** [Jan Noriyuki](#)  
**Subject:** Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb  
**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 1:00:04 PM

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The following comments were submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Thomas Rogers  
Submission Time: Oct 22 2020 12:28PM  
Email: ThosRogers@GMail.COM  
Telephone: 208-949-7807  
Address: North Longridge Place  
Eagle, ID 83616-6626

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power Company

Case ID: IPC-E-18-15

Comment: "To Whom it may concern, 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. I want to speak up to require Idaho Power to establish new and fair export rates before closing the window on its current program. This proposed change and the public comment period are also happening during fall harvest. I want to speak up to ask for an extended public comment period beyond the fall harvest season, when farmers can more meaningfully engage in the process. What other changes could follow from this? 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 very valuable because it supports your neighbors and community instead of relying on long-distance power lines and far-flung power plants. I want to speak up to ensure Idaho Power maintains fair export credit rates and accurately values the extra power customer-solar provides. What other changes would support farmer-owned solar? Currently, farms and businesses can only install up to 100 kilowatts of solar per meter. Many business and irrigation pumps require much more power than that. This arbitrary 100 kilowatt cap means a business or farmer cannot offset all of their own needs and must then buy from Idaho Power. I want to speak up to give farmers the freedom to invest in a solar system that's large enough to meet their energy needs. How does this change impact farmers who already have solar? 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 informed 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. I look forward to you acknowledgement of my message and that you consider options to insur"

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Name: Michael Rowe  
Submission Time: Oct 22 2020 12:07PM

Email: rowemicha@gmail.com  
Telephone: 208-220-6611  
Address: 620 S 8th Ave  
Pocatello, ID 83201

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-20-26

Comment: "I am writing in opposition to Idaho Power's request to change net-metering compensation as if applies to farmers. Last year we spent a significant amount of money installing solar panels on our house with the understanding that Idaho Power would be compensating us for excess electricity produced. We understand it is a long term investment and installing solar panels means of course that we have helped do our part for renewable energy. This reasoning is no different than farmers in Idaho that have invested in solar. It is my understanding that Idaho Power has no plan after the 1 December 2020 cutoff date for the current solar net metering program. It is difficult for anyone to plan ahead let alone make a significant investment in solar without seeing Idaho Power's proposed plan for future net metering. Idaho Power should produce their plan before suggesting a cutoff date. Oh, and why can farms only install up to 100 kw of solar per meter? This seems arbitrary. Let farmers install systems that are big enough to meet their needs. Why is the legacy treatment issue different for farmers compared to residential? As investment in solar is long term, it seems that farmers should be treated more like residential with a legacy treatment of net-metering of 25 years. If Idaho Power is serious about renewable energy they would not be looking at such net metering/rate changes for farmers. I would think they would be encouraging everyone to switch to solar if they were truly serious about moving completely to renewable energy. As Idaho Power is a monopoly, loyal customers who have switched to solar really don't have any other options. I trust the PUC to oversee Idaho Power to help all of us as we strive to make our communities and state more energy independent."

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