## RECEIVED



LISA D. NORDSTROM
Lead Counsel
Inordstrom@idahopower.com

2021 APR 22 AM 11:53

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 22, 2021

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jan Noriyuki, Secretary Idaho Public Utilities Commission 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Bldg 8, Suite 201-A (83714) PO Box 83720 Boise, Idaho 83720-0074

Re:

Case No. IPC-E-21-02

In the Matter of Idaho Power Company's Application for an Accounting Order Authorizing the Deferral of Incremental Wildfire Mitigation and Insurance

Costs

Dear Ms. Noriyuki:

Attached for electronic filing, pursuant to Order No. 34781, is Idaho Power Company's Reply Comments.

If you have any questions about the attached document, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Lisa D. Nordstrom

Lia D. Madotram

LDN:slb Attachment LISA D. NORDSTROM (ISB No. 5733) Idaho Power Company 1221 West Idaho Street (83702) P.O. Box 70 Boise, Idaho 83707 Telephone: (208) 388-5825

Facsimile: (208) 388-6936 Inordstrom@idahopower.com

Attorney for Idaho Power Company

## BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER
COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR AN
ACCOUNTING ORDER AUTHORIZING
THE DEFERRAL OF INCREMENTAL
WILDFIRE MITIGATION AND INSURANCE
COSTS

CASE NO. IPC-E-21-02
IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S
REPLY COMMENTS

Idaho Power Company ("Idaho Power" or "Company") respectfully submits the following Reply Comments in response to Comments filed by Idaho Public Utilities Commission Staff ("Staff"), Idaho Conservation League ("ICL"), and individual members of the public.

The Company is grateful for Staff's careful assessment of Idaho Power's Wildfire Mitigation Plan ("WMP") and associated incremental costs. Staff's supportive recommendations are based on diligent review and, ultimately, indicate that Idaho Power has developed a reasonable and comprehensive plan to proactively mitigate wildfire risk.

With respect to ICL, Idaho Power appreciates the group's comments and suggestions on collaborative land management. ICL recommends that the Company amend its WMP "to include specific collaboration between the land management agencies." ICL Comments at 2. Additionally, ICL suggests that Idaho Power "proactively collaborate in ongoing management planning processes to ensure the complexities of landscape management in the face of wildfires are being addressed by all stakeholders in a coordinated manner." ICL Comments at 3.

Idaho Power certainly recognizes the importance of agency coordination. To that end, many of ICL's suggestions align with efforts already undertaken or ongoing by Idaho Power. The Company initiated agency dialogue through meetings with Idaho's Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") Fire Management staff during development of the WMP. Those agency meetings helped Idaho Power gain an understanding of BLM's fire protection priorities, identify BLM datasets relevant to the Company's planning efforts, establish a rapport with BLM fire staff, and initiate discussion regarding potential, future collaborative fire mitigation projects.

Subsequent meetings with BLM's Deputy State Resource Services Director and State Fire Management Officer focused on WMP implementation, BLM District staff outreach strategies, and potential BLM prioritization of Idaho Power fire mitigation project reviews. Idaho Power continues to work with BLM to identify outreach strategies to educate BLM District staff and solicit feedback from them.

In preliminary conversations with the Company, U.S. Forest Service ("USFS") Region 4 recognized that there was no statewide forum for wildland fire management coordination. To address this gap, Idaho Power and the USFS in early 2020 discussed

potential cooperative fire mitigation strategies, resulting in Idaho Power joining the Idaho

Wildfire Board (the "Board"), a new consortium of local, state, and federal agencies. The

intent of the Board is to bring together different agencies working on wildland fire

management in the state of Idaho. The Board's first meeting is on April 22, 2021. Idaho

Power intends to leverage its participation to expand WMP coordination with USFS, Idaho

Military Division, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Idaho Department of

Lands, and BLM.

ICL also suggested coordination with Governor Little's Shared Stewardship

Advisory Group. While this group's scope is extensive and goes beyond wildfire

collaboration, Idaho Power recognizes its value. As such, the Company has engaged

with the group and will continue to follow its progress.

Finally, Idaho Power is grateful for the comments it received from its customers

and the general public. The Company understands that wildfire-related issues are of

great interest to the public and commends those who commented for taking the time to

show their support for the Company's efforts.

DATED at Boise, Idaho, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2021.

LISA D. NORDSTROM

Lia D. Madotrom

Attorney for Idaho Power Company

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2021, I served a true and correct copy IDAHO POWER COMPANY'S REPLY COMMENTS upon the following named parties by the method indicated below, and addressed to the following:

Commission Staff Dayn Hardie	Hand Delivered U.S. Mail
Deputy Attorney General	Overnight Mail
Idaho Public Utilities Commission	FAX
11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Bldg No. 8,	X Email Dayn.Hardie@puc.idaho.gov
Suite 201-A (83714)	
PO Box 83720	
Boise, ID 83720-0074	
Idaho Conservation League Benjamin J. Otto Idaho Conservation League 710 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street	Hand DeliveredU.S. MailOvernight Mail FAX
Boise, ID 83702	FTP Site
	X Email botto@idahoconservation.org
	S
	Obuckey

Stephanie Buckner, Executive Assistant