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Attorney for the Commission Staff

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF IDAHO POWER)
COMPANY’S APPLICATION FOR) **CASE NO. IPC-E-21-13**
APPROVAL OF ITS LOAD CURTAILMENT)
AND INTERRUPTION PLAN)
)
) **COMMENTS OF THE**
) **COMMISSION STAFF**
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)

STAFF OF the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, by and through its Attorney of record, Dayn Hardie, Deputy Attorney General, submits the following comments.

BACKGROUND

On May 11, 2021, Idaho Power Company (“Company”) applied for approval of its 2021 Load Curtailment and Interruption Plan and for authority to update its Electric Service Rule J—Continuity, Curtailment, and Interruption of Electric Service (“Rule J”). The Company requested its Application be processed by Modified Procedure.

The Application summarizes the Company’s curtailment plan background and reasoning for the 2021 Load Curtailment and Interruption Plan (“LCIP”) and its Electric Service Rule J—Continuity, Curtailment, and Interruption of Electric Service. The Application also includes differentiation between the LCIP and the Modified Regional Plan. The Company’s current curtailment plans include following the Electric Load Management Rule J Procedures last filed

in 2002 and elements of the Modified Regional Plan filed in 1993. The Company's filing is made pursuant to *Idaho Code § 61-531*, Plan for Curtailment of Electric or Gas Consumption, that requires all suppliers of electric power and energy to file a plan for curtailment with the Commission.

STAFF REVIEW

Staff reviewed the Company's Application for approval of its LCIP and for authority to update its Rule J. Based on its review, Staff recommends the Commission approve the 2021 LCIP and to update Rule J.

Compliance

The Company's 2021 LCIP and update to Rule J meet the legal requirements set by *Idaho Code § 61-532*. To meet the requirements, the Commission shall consider: (a) the consistency of the plan with the public health, safety, and welfare; (b) the technical feasibility of implementation of the plan; and (c) the effectiveness with which the plan minimizes the impact of any curtailment.

Staff reviewed the Company's 2021 updates and determined that the Company followed the requirements of *Idaho Code § 61-532*. The Company's update reforms its LCIP to work in conjunction with its Rule J. The Company's Rule J was updated in 2002 and the Modified Regional Plan was filed in 1993. Since the Company's last update, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation has been granted authority to regulate bulk-power system planning and reliability. Both regional and regulatory changes create sufficient reasons for an update of plans to meet public health, safety, and welfare. Previous plans and rules set by the Company require updates to meet current industry practices and regulations. The Company has requested approval to update its plans to satisfy practices and procedures. Staff found that the 2021 LCIP adequately plans for curtailment-related emergency events and reduces the impact on customers.

Notification

Staff reviewed the notification procedures pertaining to state regulatory and reliability authorities. Staff asked the Company to describe how it provides notification of curtailment or

interruption to state regulatory and reliability authorities. The Company provided the following response. *Production Request and Company Response No. 2.*

The primary state regulatory authorities notified would be the Idaho Public Utilities Commission and/or the Public Utility Commission of Oregon. Under the Company's Emergency Response Communication Plan ("ERCP"), provided as a Confidential attachment to this request, the designated Communication Coordinator notifies several critical internal groups including the Legal and Regulatory Affairs departments. If circumstances giving rise to the interruption or curtailment are likely to be of significant public impact or attention, Regulatory Affairs will contact the Idaho Public Utilities Commission ("IPUC") and/or Public Utility Commission of Oregon ("OPUC") to notify them of the event and provide updates as the situation warrants.

Further, the Company's Emergency Management Team ("EMT") will contact the Idaho and Oregon Offices of Emergency Management depending on the type and severity of the event. The role of the EMT will depend on if the event impacts the continuity of critical business functions and/or the severity of the event.

These types of communications are envisioned to occur via direct phone call, so the Company does not have record of specific communications to state regulatory and reliability authorities.

Staff reviewed the Company's ERCP and believes the document could benefit from additional detail regarding notification requirements and communication protocols used during curtailment, disaster, and emergency situations. Staff recommends that the Company meet with IPUC Staff, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, and Emergency Support Function ("ESF") #12 (Energy) and develop a plan to clearly define communication requirements and protocols to be exercised in the event of an emergency or disaster.

In response to Production Request Nos. 3, 5, and 6, Staff learned that the Company did not solicit input from its customers and other stakeholders that are directly impacted by curtailment in development of its proposed updates to the LCIP. Staff believes the Company could benefit from such input and recommends that the Company meet with IPUC Staff, electric providing municipalities, electric cooperatives, DSM participants, and other stakeholders to improve upon the plan's notification procedures to minimize stakeholder impact of future curtailments.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Commission approve the 2021 LCIP and update to its Electric Service Rule J - Continuity, Curtailment, and Interruption of Electric Service.

Staff also recommends that the Company meet with Staff and interested parties to gather feedback and to update notification procedures based on the feedback.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of September 2021.



Dayn Hardie
Deputy Attorney General

Technical Staff: Josh Haver
Kevin Keyt
Daniel Klein
Taylor Thomas
Yao Yin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THIS 22ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021, SERVED THE FOREGOING **COMMENTS OF THE COMMISSION STAFF**, IN CASE NO. IPC-E-21-13, BY E-MAILING A COPY THEREOF, TO THE FOLLOWING:

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