

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF COMMISSION) **CASE NOS. IPC-E-21-14**
STAFF’S PETITION TO UPDATE) **AVU-E-21-05**
COLSTRIP-RELATED ADJUSTABLE)
PORTION OF AVOIDED COST RATES) **NOTICE OF PETITION**
FOR EXISTING PURPA CONTRACTS)
) **NOTICE OF**
) **MODIFIED PROCEDURE**
)
) **ORDER NO. 35050**
)

On May 13, 2021, the Staff of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission petitioned the Commission to approve the annual update to the Colstrip-related adjustable portion of published avoided cost rates for existing Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (“PURPA”) contracts.

The Commission now sets deadlines for commenting on the Petition.

NOTICE OF PETITION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that in 1999 the Commission established a methodology for the annual adjustable-rate portion of avoided costs for those Qualifying Facility (“QF”) contracts using variable costs associated with Colstrip, a coal-fired generating facility in southeast Montana. *See* Order No. 28708, Case No. GNR-E-99-01.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Idaho Power Company (“Idaho Power”) and Avista Corporation (“Avista”) are parties to contracts with Colstrip Method rates. Rocky Mountain Power no longer has contracts with Colstrip Method rates.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that for those QF contracts with Colstrip-related fuel costs and variable O&M, future Colstrip variable cost adjustments are calculated using FERC Form 1 Colstrip Unit Coal Costs per megawatt hour (“MWh”) and adding \$2.00/MWh (the average variable O&M cost of Colstrip, plus 20¢/MWh for generation taxes, plus a five percent (5%) adjustment for line loss). Relevant pages from Avista’s FERC Form 1 are attached to Staff’s Petition as Attachment A.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that as computed by Staff, the Colstrip-related adjustable rate will change from 16.55 mill/kilowatt hour (“kWh”) to 20.37 mill/kWh, effective July 1, 2021.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED Staff believes that a hearing is unnecessary to consider the issues and requests this Petition be processed under Modified Procedure, i.e., by written submissions rather than by hearing. *See* Commission Rule of Procedure 201, *et seq.*

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petition is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission’s office. These documents are also available on the Commission’s web site at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click on the “ELECTRIC” tab at the top of the home page, then select “Open Cases,” and then locate and click on the case number as shown on the front of this document.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission’s jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-501 to 61-503.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter, and that it will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that anyone desiring to state a position on this Petition must file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission **within 21 days of the service date of this Order**. The comment must explain why the person supports or opposes the Petition. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Comments must be filed through the Commission website or by email unless computer access is unavailable. To comment electronically, please access the Commission’s home page at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the “Consumer” tab on the Commission’s webpage and then “Case Comment Form” and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this

document. To file by email, the customer must email the comments to the email addresses listed below. In addition to submitting the comments to the Commission Secretary, the customer must also email the Staff and utilities at the email addresses listed below. If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission, Staff, and utilities at these addresses:

**For the Idaho Public Utilities
Commission:**

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, Idaho 83714
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

For Commission Staff:

John R. Hammond Jr.
Mike Louis
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
John.Hammond@puc.idaho.gov
Mike.Louis@puc.idaho.gov

For Idaho Power:

Donovan E. Walker
Michael Darrington
Energy Contracts
Idaho Power Company
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Boise, ID 83707-0070
DWalker@idahopower.com
MDarrington@idahopower.com
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energycontracts@idahopower.com

For Avista:

Michael Andrea
Clint Kalich
Avista Utilities
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Spokane, WA 99220-3727
Michael.Andrea@avistacorp.com
Clint.Kalich@avistacorp.com

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Staff must file any reply comments **within 28 days of the service date of this Order.**

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Staff's Petition be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons interested in submitting written comments must do so within 21 days of the service date of this Order. The Commission Staff must file any reply comments within 28 days of the service date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties continue to comply with Order No. 34781, issued September 17, 2020. All pleadings should be filed with the Commission electronically and shall be deemed timely filed when received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. Voluminous discovery-related documents may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 21st day of May 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

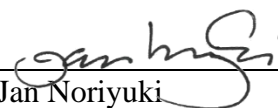


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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