

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IDAHO POWER COMPANY’S) CASE NO. IPC-E-21-15
APPLICATION TO UPDATE THE GAS)
FORECAST IN THE INCREMENTAL COST) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN AVOIDED)
COST MODEL) NOTICE OF
) MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)
) ORDER NO. 35074
)

On May 13, 2021, Idaho Power Company (the “Company”) applied to update the natural gas forecast from the 2019 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) that is utilized in the Incremental Cost Integrated Resource Plan (“ICIRP”) avoided cost methodology. IRP avoided cost rates are available to qualifying facilities (“QFs”) able to generate above the resource-specific project eligibility cap for published avoided cost rates under Idaho’s implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (“PURPA”).

The Commission now sets deadlines for interested persons to comment on the Application, and for the Company to reply.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that because of the delay in finalizing and acknowledging the 2019 IRP, the October 2020 update of the gas and load forecast for the ICIRP methodology was based upon the 2017 IRP.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that on December 29, 2020, the Commission approved an update to the load and natural gas forecast used in the ICIRP avoided cost methodology which used the Company’s 2017 IRP as the basis of the methodology. The source of the 2017 IRP forecast was the U.S. Energy Information Administration’s (“EIA”) Henry Hub High Oil and Gas Resource and Technology forecast. *See* Order No. 34881.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company states the acknowledged 2019 IRP uses a natural gas forecast provided by S&P Global Platts (“Platts”). The Company represents because of the timing associated with the 2019 IRP review and acknowledgment in relation to the October update, if the Company were to utilize the gas forecast from the acknowledged 2019 IRP,

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it would be utilizing a forecast that uses a different source and is not as current as that approved in the 2020 October update. The Company believes that an out-of-cycle update to the gas forecast from the acknowledged 2019 IRP should be approved and utilized in the ICIRP avoided cost methodology. This would apply the same natural gas forecast acknowledged for resource planning and acquisition in the 2019 IRP (Platts), as well as using the most up-to-date information available for that gas forecast (2021 Platts forecast vs. 2018 Platts forecast from the acknowledged 2019 IRP).

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that consistent with the Commission's prior orders, should this update to the natural gas forecast be approved by the Commission, the updated ICIRP avoided cost methodology will be utilized by the Company as the starting point for the negotiation of its contractual avoided cost rates.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company requests the use of the natural gas forecast from the acknowledged 2019 IRP, the Henry Hub, and Sumas Basis Annuals from Platts' long-term Forecast, updated to the published March 4, 2021, forecast. The Company states the use of this forecast indicates an approximate 3% overall decrease in the average annual natural gas forecast prices over the remaining period in comparison to the 2018 natural gas price forecast from the acknowledged 2019 IRP.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company represents that although the updated Platts' natural gas forecast shows a slight decrease overall, it contains yearly increases in 2021-2023 and 2039-2040.

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 Rule 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 persons desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment with the Commission explaining why the person supports or opposes the Application. Persons who would like a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Persons must file written comments **by July 6, 2021**. Comments must

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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 "Case Comment Form" and complete the form using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. To file by e-mail, the customer must e-mail the comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. In addition to submitting the comments to the Commission Secretary, the customer must also e-mail the Company at the email addresses listed below. If computer access is unavailable, then comments may be mailed to the Commission and Company at these addresses:

For the Idaho PUC:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074
secretary@puc.idaho.gov

For Idaho Power Company:

Donovan E. Walker
Idaho Power Company
P.O. Box 70
Boise, ID 83707-0070
dwalker@idahopower.com

Street Address for Express Mail:

11331 W. Chinden Blvd.
Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, ID 83714

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Company must file any reply comments **by July 13, 2021.**

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 the Company's Application be processed by Modified Procedure, Rule 201-204 (IDAPA 31.01.01.201-.204). Persons interested in submitting written comments must do so by July 6, 2021. The Company must file any reply comments by July 13, 2021.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that parties should continue to comply with Order No. 35058, issued June 3, 2021. 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 16th day of June 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

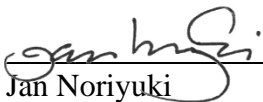


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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