

IPC-E-21-22

JUN 14 2021

Boise, Idaho

According to the Strategic Plan Mission Statement by Idaho Public Utilities Commission, this Title 2 Public Entity is committed to 'fair, just and reasonable' utility practices for consumers. Additionally the IPUC prioritizes safety and reliability for customers.

As a title 2 entity, the IPUC is required to comply with Federal ADA Requirements. Additionally the Utilities under the oversight of the IPUC are required to comply with Federal ADA Requirements. Therefore, determination of fair and just utility practices would apply equally to adults with disabilities.

I am petitioning the Commission according to rule 33 IDAPA 31.01.01 – Rules of Procedure of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to recognize the right of disabled adults to equally access the IPUC according to Federal ADA Requirements and to identify that Public Utilities that exclude customers on the basis of Disability are in violation of Federal ADA requirements for title 2 entities.

If the IPUC operates under the premise of safeguarding the public, surely protecting vulnerable and disabled adults from being excluded from accessing Public Utilities on the basis of disability would be a priority. Idaho Utilities at present fail to comply with Federal ADA requirements protecting equal access to public utilities. This violates fair, just and reasonable practices for a disadvantaged minority group leading to potentially dangerous and discriminatory practices against vulnerable adults.

Additionally the PUC itself has not complied with ADA requirements for accessibility. However, I was impressed by the willingness of PUC employees to make a significant effort to accommodate me. I withdraw my Tort Claim in favor of ongoing informal discussion relating to ADA compliance. My objective is not litigation or financial gain, but equal access according to Federal Law, for myself and other Idaho residents - especially those of us with severe disabilities choosing, as is our legal right, to live in a fully integrated community setting. Lack of ADA compliance by Public Utilities has created a significant barrier to community integration for me over a 9 year period. This extreme length of time is the result of the lack of an accessible complaint process by both Public

Utilities and the PUC neither of which provide accessible information regarding a complaint process or an effective ADA grievance process, as required by Federal ADA Regulation, to accommodate the access and communication needs of disabled Idaho Residents.

I respectfully request the Commission review my petition and complaints and take a stand in favor of compliance with Federal ADA Requirements protecting disabled adults from discrimination by Public Government Entities on the basis of Disability. I implore you to implement an accessible complaint procedure and enforce compliance with Federal Regulations for Public Utilities under your authority. And I support these measures by freely offering information to the Commission from the perspective of a disabled adult who has struggled in Idaho for 9 years to access Public Utilities because of lack of ADA compliance by Idaho Power and Intermountain Gas.

Thank you for your consideration. Please grant me the necessary accommodations to receive a response, communicate 'effectively' with the IPUC, and equally participate in a complaint process to be able to access and communicate with Idaho Power who at present has failed to comply with Federal Requirements for equal access.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen Erickson

June 14, 2021