

From: [PUC Consumer Comments](#)
To: [Jan Noriyuki](#)
Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 7:00:08 AM

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: BW Gower
Submission Time: Aug 24 2021 6:43PM
Email: bgower2@hotmail.com
Telephone: 208-720-6344
Address: PO Box 912
Bellevue, ID 83313

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-21-25

Comment: "In the matter of requesting approval of a surcharge for the purpose of undergrounding transmission and distribution lines in the Hailey/Ketchum area of the Wood River Valley I am vehemently opposed. The County Commissioners may have asked IPCO to do this but they did not ask the general citizenry of Blaine County. A vocal minority may have known about and showed up to comment at Commission meetings but this should be voted on by the whole County and not shoved through by the "Chamber of Commerce Elites". The argument that it somehow helps the whole county is bunk. This is a proposal by and for a bunch of well healed NIMBYs. Put the redundant equipment in above ground or make the Ketchum, Sun Valley, Weyyakin, Lane Ranch, Golden Eagle, Cold Springs, Valley Club and Elkhorn residents that it benefits pay for it."

From: [PUC Consumer Comments](#)
To: [Jan Noriyuki](#)
Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 12:00:07 PM

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: Cynthia Mann
Submission Time: Aug 25 2021 11:24AM
Email: hideawayranch@gmail.com
Telephone: 208-720-0413
Address: 380 Littlewood Reservoir Rd
Carey, ID 83320

Name of Utility Company: IPCO

Case ID: IPC-E-21-25

Comment: "I would like to go on record in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed surcharge by ID Power for undergrounding of the new Redundant Transmission Line ID Power plans to install from Hailey to Ketchum, destroying our Scenic Corridor. The tiny amount of visual clarity achieved by undergrounding this short portion of the new line is absolutely NOT WORTH IT!!! The above ground portion of the new line blemishes our Scenic Corridor forever. Why pay \$10 million dollars to underground a tiny bit of it? Just build the whole thing above ground. It's all a travesty anyway. I'm an irrigator in Carey, ID. We have 6 pumps with separate meters and we will be assessed \$14.36 per month x 6 for 20 years, with no benefit to us at all!!! That's \$86.16 every month additional cost to us, on top of annual rate increases that IPCO hands out!! In addition to \$86.16 we'll have to pay \$3.42 per residential meter, of which we have 3. Our annual cost will be \$1157.04!!!! Our 20 year cost will be \$23,140.80, AND WE LIVE IN CAREY!!!! I participated in the Blaine County Commissioners meetings and opposed this proposed line then. At that time, IPCO represented that our fees might total \$350/household per month. \$23k over 20 years for one business not even located in the Big Wood River Valley is totally outrageous!!! At the final meeting of the Blaine County Commissioners before they reversed themselves and laid down prostrating themselves in front of IPCO, I advocated for them to allow the entire line to be overhead. This pitiful distance of underground line is only saving IPCO from having to deal with the Helicopters at the Hospital from running into 60' high electric poles. Undergrounding distribution lines will have zero visual impact in comparison to the new overhead transmission lines installed in the Scenic Corridor. The current BCC has thrown away decades of work to establish and maintain our Scenic Corridor. Saddling farmers with \$14.36 per meter monthly is obscene!!!! I urge the Idaho Public Utility Commission to disallow IPCO from charging rate payers for a line we don't need, undergrounded in areas we won't even notice. Sincerely, Cynthia Mann 380 Littlewood Reservoir Rd Carey, ID 83320 "

From: [PUC Consumer Comments](#)
To: [Jan Noriyuki](#)
Subject: Notice: A comment was submitted to PUCWeb
Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021 2:00:08 PM

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

Name: steven crosser
Submission Time: Aug 25 2021 1:50PM
Email: stevecrosser@gmail.com
Telephone: 208-721-8090
Address: 431 Aspen Dr
Hailey, ID 83333-8800

Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-21-25

Comment: "I oppose any rate increase by Idaho power, for the purpose of burying the power line a long highway 75 here in Blaine County. The insistence of the Blaine County Commissioners that this new power line be buried is politically motivated by there wealthy constituents. Why should ALL Blaine County residences pay that cost for the next 20 years ? Commercial, industrial, irrigation users that live miles and miles away pay the \$14.36 for the next 20 years ?"

John Schroeder/Margaret Lezamiz
1299 Creekside Sun Valley
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

RECEIVED

2021 AUG 25 PM 2:10

(Main home address and mailing address)
3786 South Suntree Place
Boise, Idaho 83706
John's Cell Phone: 208-841-3897

IDaho PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

August 23, 2021

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Suite 201-a
Boise, Idaho 83714

Blaine County Commission
206 South 1st Avenue, Suite 300
Hailey, Idaho 83333

Idaho Power Company
P.O. Box 70
Boise, Idaho 83702

Re: Blaine County Underground Power Lines
IPC-E-21-25

Dear Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

We are owners of a townhouse Condo at 1299 Creekside Sun Valley. Our home base is in Boise as above referenced.

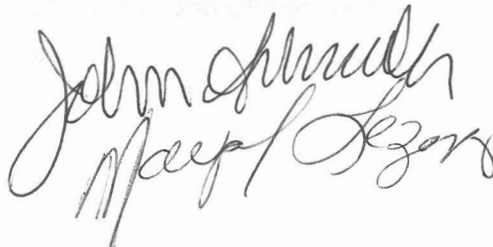
WE ARE IN FAVOR of the Idaho Power Company SURCHARGE to pay for burying the Idaho Power electric lines. There are several reasons:

1. PG & E and the numerous California wildfires caused by above ground power lines, killing hundreds of people and burning thousands of homes and burning hundreds of businesses and burning several schools. We need not say more. Above ground power lines in Blaine County could cause similar consequences in the future.

2. Because of the foregoing Reason #1, we will save hundreds - if not thousands of dollars - on casualty insurance costs with our home owner's insurance company - Farmers Insurance.

3. Lastly, the aesthetics of burying the power lines makes the surcharge worthwhile.

PLEASE, for the **SAFETY** of our residents and the **SAFETY** of our homes, businesses and schools in the Ketchum/Sun Valley/Hailey area, please approve the surcharge requested by Idaho Power and the Blaine County Commissioners to bury the power lines. The surcharge costs almost nothing when compared to the safety it will provide our residents and homes/businesses/schools. THANK YOU!!!



FAQs

What is being built?

The new Wood River – Ketchum transmission line will give the Wood River Valley a second power connection, supplementing the existing 60-year-old line. The line is needed to provide backup service to the Wood River Valley and will help keep on the lights in case weather or other conditions interrupt service on either line. The Blaine County Commission has requested undergrounding of:

- 1.4 miles of 138-kilovolt transmission line along State Highway 75 between Elkhorn Road and Owl Rock Road
- 8 miles of existing distribution line located along State Highway 75 and Buttercup Road

How much would the surcharge cost customers in Blaine County?

The surcharge would add a fixed charge to Blaine County customers' monthly bills in the following amounts for 20 years (based on current estimates):

- Residential and small general service: \$3.42 per month
- Large commercial, industrial and irrigation: \$14.36 per month



What would the surcharge pay for?

The Blaine County Commission requested these lines be placed underground, which was outside the scope of Idaho Power's original proposal. The surcharge would cover the incremental costs associated with meeting that request. The cost of the additional work is estimated at \$9.8 million.

Why are Blaine County residents being asked to pay for the incremental undergrounding costs?

Idaho Power normally requires an upfront payment to offset costs associated with customer or local government requests to underground lines. In this instance, Blaine County instead asked us to collect the estimated \$9.8 million through the surcharge. If the project costs less than expected and/or funds are recovered sooner, the surcharge's duration would be shorter than 20 years.

What happens next?

The IPUC will decide whether to approve this request and implement the surcharge.

Opportunities for public review

This proposal is subject to public review and approval by the IPUC. Written comments regarding this proposal may be filed with the IPUC. To learn more, visit puc.idaho.gov and reference case number IPC-E-21-25.

Blaine County Surcharge for Underground Lines Proposed

Idaho Power has filed a petition with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) to approve a customer surcharge that would fund the underground portion of the new Wood River – Ketchum transmission line. The filing honors a Blaine County Commission request to underground (bury) a portion of the new transmission line plus eight miles of existing distribution lines, with Blaine County customers paying the incremental costs through a monthly bill surcharge.



To stay informed on this topic, please see the other side of this postcard for more details.



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