

IPUC

Re. IPC-E-21-25

As a resident of Blaine County, I am against the surcharge to pay for the undergrounding of the lines outside the scope of Idaho Power's original request. I feel the southern and eastern Blaine County residents should not have to help pay for this un-necessary expense. I can see no benefit to us at all. If the few people that are concerned about the view being spoiled, they should focus on stopping the construction of the unsightly homes being built within the view all along the highway south and north of Ketchum. Ketchum used to try to keep some sensible rules to protect the views, however now it is getting to be like driving through a canyon on main street in Ketchum and getting worse.

The break down on the surcharge is very discriminatory. Large commercial and industrial customers can pass the expense on to their customers as a cost of doing business, while the people in agriculture can only get what the market is for their products. Their costs keep going up i.e. Fuel, repairs, labor, and taxes. For example, I have five irrigation pumps I pay the power on, take that times \$14.36 equals \$71.80 per month, twelve months equals \$861.60 per year. I am a little guy, many farmers or ranchers have twenty or more pumps that they would need to pay this extortion on. A commercial business such as Silver Creek Auto only has one meter to pay for, so they only pay \$14.36 per month and have a larger profit margin. Most farmers and ranchers keep their pumps connected all year to save the expense of a connect/disconnect fee and the extra wasted resources involved connecting and disconnecting. If I want to put in a development or bury a power line in front of my property, I would have to pay for it myself, I am sure the County Commissioners would not help me pay for it. They would probably add on additional requirements at my expense. If the County Commissioners would put it to a legal vote, and truly explain what is going on, I am confident the full-time citizens would vote against it.

I really feel the people that want this portion of power line buried should pay for it themselves instead of getting others to pay for their wants to make their property more valuable.

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December 5, 2021

Commission Secretary
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Blaine County Commission
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Timothy E. Tatum
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Re: Before the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.
In the Matter of Idaho Power Company's Petition for Approval of a
Customer Surcharge and Modified Line Route Configuration
For Construction of a New 138 kV Transmission Line in
The Wood River Valley
Case No. IPC-E-21-25

Dear Idaho Public Utilities Commission, and others:

We received your Order No. 35244 on December 2, 2021. Said Order set a date of December 21, 2021 to submit written comments. We already submitted a written comment on August 23, 2021, but in light of the Order No. 35244, we felt compelled to submit another written comment to comply with the December 21, 2021 deadline pursuant to the Order.

Our written comment, again, is as follows.

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

WE ARE STRONGLY 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.

John Schmede
Margaret Loomis