

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

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Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-23-11

Comment: "IPC-E-23-11 proposes to change the Service Charge for each meter from \$5 to \$35 in 2026, and to offset this increase by reducing the charge per kWh. While this may appear to only slightly increase the total cost for each customer by an acceptable amount, it increases many Schedule 6 customer bills by 700% (seven hundred percent).

Schedule 6 customers, who generate enough electricity to have a net-zero meter balance, will go from \$60 per year to \$420 per year. This significant increase in cost will affect their return on investment for purchasing solar.

Many customers who invested in solar did so to protect themselves against inflation in the cost per kWh. This includes the elderly and those planning for retirement. By investing in solar now, these folks are able to forecast their monthly expenses in years to come. However, by changing the way the electricity is being billed, shifting the cost away from per/kWh and weighing more heavily on Service Charges, these plans for managing a fixed income are being circumvented.

I believe that increasing Service Charges by 700%, is a targeted move against Schedule 6 customers, which will have a negative impact on the elderly, and those on a fixed income who are trying to hedge against inflation.

By shifting the fee structure from power consumption to Service Charges, a specific portion of the customer base is being singled out, targeted, and negatively affected by the proposed change.

I strongly recommend to the Commission that Service Charge for Schedule 6 customers remain \$5 per meter in order to avoid a sudden 700% inflation jump in the Service Charges to customers.

As an alternative suggestion, I recommend that the Service Charge per meter be indexed for inflation, to keep pace with the national average, and rounded down to the nearest dollar. Such moderate increase would allow the utility company to keep pace with inflation, charge a similar fee to what has been charged historically, and not drastically impact those who have invested to hedge against inflation in the elderly years."
