

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

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Submission Time: Jun 24 2023 2:01PM
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Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: IPC-E-23-14

Comment: "June 23, 2023

To the Members of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission Comments regarding Idaho Power's proposal (case # IPC-E-23-14)

Dear IPUC Members -

In response to the notification mailed to me on May 1, 2023 by Idaho Power about the proposed rate changes for solar customers, I have the following questions and comments:

How are non-solar customers subsidizing the rates for self-generating customers? This was not explained at all in Idaho Power's May 1st letter. If anything, solar-generating customers are indirectly subsidizing non-solar customers by providing Idaho Power with easily-accessed electricity at their own current market rate.

Why are 1:1 rates for power delivered and power received not fair? The Value of Distributed Energy Resources study (IPC-E-22-22) seems to show Idaho Power wanting to pay LESS for exported power that is pushed back to the grid for use elsewhere and could generate a higher profit for Idaho Power.

Does Idaho Power consider privately generated power inferior, and worth less? Why would that need to be updated annually? Would not the cost per kWh float with the regular rate to all customers?

This proposed change looks like it will discourage property owners from purchasing new solar installations, in spite of an increasing demand for power in our region's growing economic market. It also will alter the mutual working arrangement of the current system that we were led to believe would remain in place, as part of the justification to place a 10-year workmen's lien on our home. Idaho Power also wants to stop allowing credits for monthly excess energy generated, which currently can be used to offset energy consumption in future periods when Idaho Power's overall consumer demand is lower.

The addition of solar to a home is a very substantial outlay of capital. Anyone who makes capital investments want a return on their investment. One of the ways that justifies this outlay is the current one for one cost of a kWh (one kWh out, one kWh in, at the same cost structure). Peak power costs are approximately 9.5159 cents per kWh and off-peak is 7.3899 cents per kWh, if I'm correct in reading over your study. The revised export rate Idaho Power want to provide those of us providing solar power back to them seems to be about 2.3-4 cents per kWh. How is this fair and equitable with a cost of tens of thousands of dollars in infrastructure by private parties, not Idaho Power, to install solar? It seems that the people with solar will be subsidizing Idaho Power, who want to pay us less per kWh and then have the option to sell it on the grid for full price.

Idaho Power's request to the IPUC for this kind of rate switch-up makes me wonder if their statements about encouraging the growth of solar power is truly sincere, if at all. They say they support their customers who choose to develop solar energy systems while, at the same time, they are requesting ways to remove incentives.

I also find it interesting that their monthly statements promote a program to allow people to participate in using cleaner solar power, but at an additional cost. I wasn't aware that power could be directed to a specific place with a specific kind of generated power! So this seems to be just another scheme to trick residential customers into supporting Idaho Power's bottom line.

It seems to me that the more solar electricity that is added to Idaho Power's system, the more electrical power fills the grid, and the more Idaho Power benefits. What I generate replaces the need to make more, and I make power at the peak of need, in the daytime and at the hottest time in the summer. But I'm sure Idaho Power doesn't want to send us a check every month as we provide them with our excess electricity. They should abide by the present arrangement for excess exported energy credits. Idaho Power is already a large monopoly! Let's not let it get any more powerful than it already is.

Respectfully yours,
Lawrence A. and Doralee Hulme
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The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

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Case ID: IPC-E-23-14

Comment: ""Please keep the 1-1 ratio for private homeowners solar panels" We installed our solar panels in July 2022. Even with the 1 to 1 ratio it will take many years before I can break even on the cost. The 1 to 1 ratio was the selling point for the installation. Without it, it's a huge loss of investment. "