

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN)	
POWER'S APPLICATION TO REVISE)	PAC-E-19-14
ELECTRIC SERVICE REGULATION NO.)	
4—SUPPLY AND USE OF SERVICE)	ORDER NO. 34504
)	

On September 27, 2019, Rocky Mountain Power (the Company) applied to the Commission for an Order authorizing the Company to revise Electric Service Regulation No. 4—Supply of Service, (Regulation 4) to allow unmetered service in certain instances for small usage devices whose total connected load does not exceed 2 kilowatts (kW).

On October 28, 2019, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure, setting a comment deadline of November 26, 2019, and a reply comment deadline of December 3, 2019. Staff filed the only comments, and the Company did not file reply comments.

Now, based on our review of the record, the Commission approves the Application as set forth below.

THE APPLICATION

The Company proposed a revised paragraph 1 of Regulation 4 to allow unmetered service for “small usage devices”: devices whose total connected load does not exceed 2 kW per point of connection. The Company stated this revision solves a logistical problem facing 4G and 5G cell antennas in dense commercial areas. Because of limited mounting space and municipal ordinances, cell phone carriers struggle to mount meters for cell antennas. After hearing from cell phone carriers about this challenge, the Company proposed this revision to the industry and received a very positive response.

The proposed revision would provide for unmetered service if, at the sole discretion of the Company, usage is impractical or unsafe to meter. Unmetered service is subject to these conditions: 1) the small usage device's load must not exceed two kW per point of connection; 2) all equipment must meet the Company's design and installation requirements; 3) the customer service application must provide the small usage device's capacity requirements; 4) the Company will calculate monthly usage of the small capacity device as the total capacity requirement of the

equipment multiplied by 730 hours (the number of hours in a month); 5) the Company may test the capacity requirements of the small usage devices; and 6) the customer must give the Company at least 30-days' notice before changing load.

If the Company determines that the customer underreported capacity or otherwise failed to notify the Company of its increased capacity, the Company may back-bill the customer under Electric Service Regulation No. 8, section 6—Adjustment for Billing Error—for the incremental kilowatt/hour usage associated with the higher capacity. The Company noted this “protects other customers and ensures that the risks of accepting un-metered service in this limited situation are properly balanced.” If the customer makes changes that make the service ineligible for unmetered service, Company-approved metering point(s) must be installed by the customer within 30 days following notification from the Company that the service is ineligible for unmetered service. If Company-approved metering point(s) are not installed within this time, service will be disconnected.

The Company stated that unmetered service for small usage devices will “benefit customers and have minimal impact to Company operations.” Application at 4. The Company requested the Commission approve the proposed changes with an effective date of January 1, 2020.

STAFF COMMENTS

Staff recommended the Commission approve Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to revise Electric Service Regulation No. 4. “Staff agrees with the Company's claim that implementing unmetered service for small usage devices will benefit customers and have minimal impact on Company operations. Cost of Service is reduced through eliminating unnecessary metering costs, and customer service is enhanced.” Staff Comments at 2.

COMMISSION FINDINGS AND DECISION

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503. The Commission is empowered to investigate rates, charges, rules, regulations, practices, and contracts of public utilities and to determine whether they are just, reasonable, preferential, discriminatory, or in violation of any provision of law, and to fix the same by order. *Idaho Code* §§ 61-502 and 61-503.

The Commission has reviewed the record, including the Application and the comments of Commission Staff. Based on our review, we find it reasonable to approve the Application. The small usage devices covered by revised Regulation 4 will have consistent power usage 24 hours a

day, seven days a week. With the conditions provided under revised Regulation 4, service costs are reduced by not having to meter small usage devices. This is good for customers, the Company, and ratepayers.

Additionally, allowing unmetered service for small usage devices will encourage Idaho's broadband network to expand and improve. This Commission remains committed to encouraging a telecommunications network within this state that is affordable, available, and modern. Reliable broadband infrastructure is essential to this goal; and unmetered service for small usage devices, as envisioned in revised Regulation 4, promotes reliable broadband infrastructure.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Company's Application to revise Regulation 4 to allow unmetered service in certain instances for small usage devices whose total connected load does not exceed 2 kW is granted.

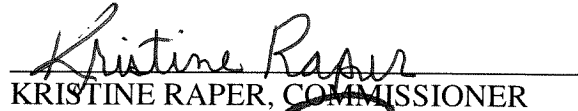
THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in this Order may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* § 61-626.

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DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 13th
day of December, 2019.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

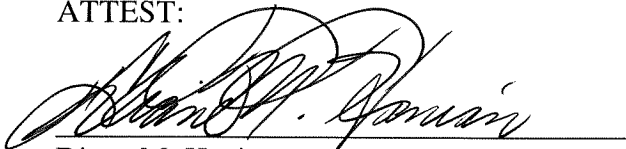


KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Diane M. Hanian
Commission Secretary

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