

May 11, 2020

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11269 Augusta Drive
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

2020 MAY 15 AM 9:40

IDAHO PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
11331 West Chinden Boulevard
Building 8, Suite 201A
Boise, ID 83714

RE: Rocky Mountain Power -- Recovery Power Costs

Messrs.

I am writing to the Commission to voice my opposition to the proposed rate adjustment request made by the utility Rocky Mountain Power. I am a retired citizen that has lived in the time frame when utilities rates tended to be stable for long periods of time. During this period utilities were not considered as an equity play in the stock market rather such stocks were purchased for their stable dividend value.

Today, because of investors such as Warren Buffett utilities have become an equity play and so whereas utilities now have to reconcile their management decisions on a myopic quarterly basis rather than the long view of historical past. It is troubling that because of utility management questionable decisions to embrace a less-efficient and higher cost renewable energy strategy, (i.e. wind, and solar) that we as ratepayers are forced to pay for these monopolistic decisions. Moreover, the adversarial rate strategy of utilities often forces ratepayers to not use the AC, and to wash clothes in the middle of the night because of lower rates! Further, with the prospect of increasing numbers of electric vehicles on the horizon the cost of electricity will eventually become cost prohibitive to "Joe Q Consumer" to conduct the normal activities of a household because of the unrelenting adversarial rate increases.

My last comment to the Commission is why would a rate increase be considered at this time when the economy has 25-30% national unemployment and the economy has suffered catastrophic losses all due to the Covid 19 virus. The proposed rate increase request is illustrative of pressure on management by equity-holders such as Warren Buffett's group to generate ever-increasing earnings and share price! I strongly urge the Commission to deny Rocky Mountain Power any adjustment in utility rates in Idaho.

Respectively,



David R Anderson

Annual energy cost adjustment

Proposed net price increase

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Rocky Mountain Power requests recovery of power costs.

On April 1, 2020, Rocky Mountain Power asked the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to approve the 2019 incremental energy related costs of \$21.2 million, a net increase of \$8.6 million above the revenues currently collected through the energy cost adjustment mechanism. The energy cost adjustment mechanism is designed to track the difference between the company's actual costs to provide electricity to Idaho customers and the amount collected from customers through current prices.

This increase was partially offset by amortization of the 2017 Federal Tax Act. Pending commission approval, the increase would take effect June 1, 2020. All customer classes will see a net increase to their rates resulting from the recent changes in costs of providing energy to customers. The proposed adjustment will allow Rocky Mountain Power to continue to provide safe, reliable electric service to its customers.

Typical residential customers using 800 kilowatt-hours per month would see an increase of approximately \$2.04 a month on their electricity bill. The following is a summary of the percentage impacts by customer class:

- Residential Schedule 1 – 2.2% increase
- Residential Schedule 36 – 2.6% increase
- General Service Schedule 6 – 3.1% increase
- General Service Schedule 9 – 3.6% increase
- Irrigation Service Schedule 10 – 2.7% increase
- Commercial & Industrial Heating Schedule 19 – 2.9% increase
- General Service Schedule 23 – 2.5% increase
- General Service Schedule 35 – 3.7% increase

- Public Street Lighting – 1.2% increase
- Tariff Contract 400 – 3.8% increase
- Tariff Contract 401 – 3.9% increase

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal during the coming months as the commission studies the company's request. The commission must approve the proposed changes before they can take effect. A copy of the company's application is available for public review on the commission's website at www.puc.idaho.gov under Case No. PAC-E-20-02. Customers may file written comments regarding the application with the commission or subscribe to the commission's RSS feed to receive periodic updates via email about the case. Copies of the proposal are also available for review at the company's offices in Rexburg, Preston, Shelley and Montpelier.

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
11331 W Chinden Blvd
Building 8, Suite 201A
Boise, ID 83714
www.puc.idaho.gov

Rocky Mountain Power offices

- Rexburg – 127 East Main
- Preston – 509 S. 2nd E.
- Shelley – 852 E. 1400 N.
- Montpelier – 24852 U.S. Hwy 89

For more information about your rates and rate schedule, go to rockymountainpower.net/rates.

