

TAC-E-22-15

November 16, 2022

Idaho Public Utilities Commission
11331 W. Chinden Blvd, Building 8, Suite 201-A
Boise, ID 83714

I am writing regarding the October 20, 2022, Rocky Mountain Power request to Modernize it's prices for residential customers.

I have been following the recommendation to reduce our energy use where possible.

After review of Rocky Mountain Power proposal, I believe this proposal penalizes customers that use less energy, due to the customer service charge that has a larger impact on the total charge.

This proposal may result in customers reducing their concern in trying so hard to reduce their energy usage.

Please consider modifying this proposal to continue encouraging customers to reduce energy use, and still keep overall revenue about the same.

Sincerely,


David Olson

3092 N. Bechler Dr.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401

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Sirs,

It is obvious that Rocky Mountain Power wishes to move toward a high, fixed charge for all customers and charge an additional fee for the amount of power being used.

The current billing structure is much more equitable, charging a nominal fee for account and equipment maintenance, the bulk of the charges being for the amount of power actually used.

The customer currently has the ability to control their power costs through conservation methods that will be taken away by the currently proposed action.

This so-called "modernization of residential prices" is nothing more than a smoke-screen to hide the fact that Rocky Mountain Power wants to have greater control of their billing accounts and subsequently remove optional control that the customer currently enjoys to reduce the waste of power and reduce their power expenses through judicious use of conservation and alternate generation.

I highly request that this proposal be rejected.

Sincerely,
William Roskelley
9293 E Merrick Rd
Lava Hot Springs, Idaho



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Rocky Mountain Power proposes to modernize residential prices

On October 20, 2022, Rocky Mountain Power filed a request with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission proposing to modernize its prices for residential customers.

Residential rates contain two components, a fixed monthly customer service charge and an energy rate or price per kilowatt-hour. The utility proposes a gradual transition over five years to increase the customer service charge for the two residential rate schedules, which will allow energy charges to be reduced. The change is proposed for Electric Service Schedule No. 1 – Residential Service, and Electric Service Schedule No. 36 – Optional Time-of-Day Residential Service.

For Schedule 1, Rocky Mountain Power proposes to gradually increase the current \$8 per month customer service charge to \$29.25 per month over five years. At the same time energy charges will be lowered accordingly, keeping the overall revenue coming to the utility the same. The company proposes the first change, from \$8 to \$12.25 for Schedule 1, with subsequent changes annually for the next four years. These changes must be approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission.

If approved, the table below shows how the customer service charge would increase over the five-year transition for **Residential Schedule 1 customers**, and how energy charges would be reduced accordingly.

| Transition Year | Summer Season | | Winter Season | | Customer Service Charge |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | First Tier Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | Second Tier Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | First Tier Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | Second Tier Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | |
| Present | 11.1966 | 13.0999 | 9.3305 | 10.9165 | \$8.00 |
| 1 | 10.6887 | 12.2114 | 8.9073 | 10.1761 | \$12.25 |
| 2 | 10.1809 | 11.3229 | 8.4841 | 9.4357 | \$16.50 |
| 3 | 9.6731 | 10.4344 | 8.0609 | 8.6953 | \$20.75 |
| 4 | 9.1652 | 9.5459 | 7.6377 | 7.9549 | \$25.00 |
| 5 | 8.6574 | 8.6574 | 7.2145 | 7.2145 | \$29.25 |

For **Schedule 36, Time-of-Use residential customers**, the transition is detailed below:

| Transition Year | Summer Season | | Winter Season | | Customer Service Charge |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | On-Peak Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | Off-Peak Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | On-Peak Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | Off-Peak Energy Charge (\$/MWh) | |
| Present | 15.2201 | 5.3672 | 13.0395 | 4.9346 | \$15.00 |
| 1 | 14.8656 | 5.2422 | 12.7359 | 4.8196 | \$17.75 |
| 2 | 14.5112 | 5.1172 | 12.4322 | 4.7047 | \$20.75 |
| 3* | 15.5632 | 4.9922 | 13.3335 | 4.5898 | \$23.50 |
| 4 | 15.1420 | 4.8672 | 12.9726 | 4.4749 | \$26.50 |
| 5 | 14.7738 | 4.7423 | 12.6572 | 4.3600 | \$29.25 |

*On-peak period and seasons change in year three of the transition period.

For customers taking service on Standard Residential Schedule 1, tiered rates that penalize customers with higher prices for monthly energy usage over 700 kWh in the summer season and over 1,000 kWh in the winter season would be phased out over the transition period.

For customers taking service on Time of Day Schedule 36, the request also includes updates in the third year of the transition to shorten the on-peak period, better aligning the on-peak and off-peak periods with today's costs of providing energy.

For most customers, the change to their monthly bill will be less than a dollar in each of the annual price changes. The most a customer's monthly bill would increase would be about \$4 in any of the annual price changes during the transition. Generally for customers who use more energy than average, their bills would decrease.

The Idaho commission will examine Rocky Mountain Power's request and will determine whether the request should be accepted as filed, modified, or rejected.

The public may comment on the proposal as the commission studies the company's request. A copy of the company's application is available for public review on the commission's website, www.puc.idaho.gov, under Case No. PAC-E-22-15. Customers may also subscribe to the commission's RSS feed to receive periodic updates via email. The request is also available at the company's offices in Rexburg, Preston, Shelley and Montpelier, or on the web at RockyMountainPower.net/Rates.

Idaho Public Utilities Commission

www.puc.idaho.gov

11331 W. Chinden Blvd. Building 8, Suite 201-A
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