

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Larkin ([mlarkinaowski@gmail.com](mailto:mlarkinaowski@gmail.com)) Sent You a Personal Message

<[kwautomail@phone2action.com](mailto:kwautomail@phone2action.com)>

Sent: Friday, May 26, 2023 5:53 AM

To: Jan Noriyuki <[jan.noriyuki@puc.idaho.gov](mailto:jan.noriyuki@puc.idaho.gov)>

Subject: PAC-E-22-15 Rocky Mountain Power Rates

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Dear Idaho Public Utilities Commission,

Climate change is hurting farmers and ranchers due to extreme weather events. Rocky Mtn Power needs to close their coal burning power plants within the next ten years or sooner.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission should reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to nearly quadruple customers' fixed charge. A \$30 fixed charge is far out of line with comparable utilities in the state and creates a rate structure that incentivizes energy waste, harms low-income and low-usage customers, and increases the overall cost of our utility grid.

By reducing the value of a kilowatt-hour saved or self-generated, a higher fixed charge directly reduces the incentive that customers have to invest in energy efficiency or distributed generation. Customers who have already invested in energy efficiency or distributed generation will be harmed by the reduced value of their investments. With little incentive to save, customers may actually increase their energy consumption and states will have to spend more to achieve the same levels of energy efficiency savings and distributed generation. Where electricity demand rises, utilities will need to invest in new power plants, power lines, and substations, thereby raising electricity costs for all customers.

Data from the Energy Information Administration show that in nearly every state, low-income customers consume less electricity than other residential customers, on average. Because fixed charges tend to increase bills for low-usage customers while decreasing them for high-use customers, fixed charges raise bills most for those who can least afford the increase.

High fixed charges, such as the one Rocky Mountain Power is proposing, create an unfair, inefficient rate structure. Please reject Rocky Mountain Power's proposal to increase rates to \$29.25 per month per customer.

Sincerely,

Michael Larkin

7505 W Portneuf Rd

Pocatello, ID 83204

[mlarkinaowski@gmail.com](mailto:mlarkinaowski@gmail.com)

(208) 705-8912

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