

The following comment was submitted via PUCWeb:

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Name of Utility Company: Idaho Power

Case ID: PAC-E-23-01

Comment: "I am representing the 500+ members of the Boise Chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. Our primary focus as an organization is to encourage climate-smart policy decisions. And, individually, we are also customers of Idaho Power.

We understand three things clearly:

1. The cost of wind and solar energy continues to drop.
  2. The cost of energy from coal and natural gas-fired power plants will rise even higher as the public demands accountability for the climate damage caused by their emissions.
  3. Economics will drive the transition—except that there is a missing link in the process.
- That missing link is the lack of a modernized transmission network. Without modernizing how we move energy from where it is produced to where it is needed in our homes and industries, two bad things will happen.

First, without access to low-cost energy of the future, our rates will go up.

Second, our nation will miss its climate goals. A modernized and expanded transmission network is essential if the goals are to be met.

Boardman to Hemmingway is one key part of the needed modernized transmission network. It has been in the works since 2007. That's already too long and clearly the time to push it to the top of Idaho Power's priority list of investments.

We ask that the Commission, under its charge to assure adequate service at reasonable rates, grant this Certificate of Necessity to Idaho Power.

But more than that, we ask that the Commission take the lead in speeding up the permitting process for future transmission projects. For example, as Idaho shifts from natural gas to electric heat pumps we will need to bring in low-cost, non-polluting power in the winter. That will likely come from Arizona and Nevada and current transmission is not adequate. Cross-state alliances and coordination will be needed. The Commission's leadership will be key to making that happen.

As our public utility commission, it is your mission and, by law, your responsibility to plan ahead to assure electric service at reasonable rates. To achieve that mission you will need to speed up the expansion of a modernized transmission network.

Thank you."