

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S)	CASE NO. GNR-U-08-01
INQUIRY ABOUT ENERGY)	
AFFORDABILITY ISSUES AND)	NOTICE OF
WORKSHOPS.)	PUBLIC WORKSHOPS
)	
)	NOTICE OF SCHEDULING
)	
)	ORDER NO. 30644

By this Order, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission provides a forum for the exploration of issues related to the affordability of energy in our state.

The Commission recognizes that there are a variety of factors contributing to significant upward pressure on electric and natural gas rates in Idaho and energy affordability has become a central issue for many Idaho households and businesses. Utilities are facing the prospect of more customers being unable to pay their energy bills in full and/or on time. Customers who are unemployed, have lower incomes, and/or have fixed incomes that fail to keep pace with inflation are disproportionately affected by rising energy costs, since they must devote an increasingly larger share of their income to paying for natural gas and electricity. Based on these and other considerations, the Commission on its own motion initiated this case to examine the issues surrounding energy affordability for customers. Idaho Power, Avista Utilities, Intermountain Gas, and Rocky Mountain Power are directed to participate in the workshops scheduled in Boise. Other interested customers and organizations are also encouraged to participate.

Topics to explore in the workshops include, but are not limited to: (1) bill mitigation (payment plans); (2) bill payment assistance; (3) bill reduction (e.g., conservation, weatherization, bill discounts, reduced rates, tiered rates); (4) reduction in customer costs (e.g., payment transaction costs); (5) barriers to obtaining or retaining service (e.g., deposits and arrearages); and (6) case management (e.g., providing one-on-one customer assistance). The objective is to identify new programs, policies and/or legislation, procedures, and/or resources that could be implemented to address energy affordability. To the extent possible, the costs and benefits of proposed solutions will be identified.

The information gathered at the workshops will be compiled and analyzed by Staff prior to issuing its comments. The utilities, general public, and other interested parties will then be given an opportunity to respond to Staff's comments. Based on the information gathered and provided, Staff will submit a final report to the Commission.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that Commission Staff will initially hold the following public workshops in Boise, Idaho:

- **ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008, AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, 472 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, BOISE, IDAHO.**
- **ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2008, AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, 472 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, BOISE, IDAHO.**

The Commission, in its discretion, may schedule additional workshops throughout the State.

NOTICE OF SCHEDULING

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Commission Staff intends to file initial comments with the Commission no later than **November 14, 2008**. Responses to Staff's initial comments filed by customers, utilities, and/or other interested parties must be filed with the Commission no later than **December 8, 2008**. Staff will submit a final report, including recommendations, to the Commission no later than **December 30, 2008**.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the documentation related to this case will be filed with the Commission and available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The documentation may also be viewed on the Commission's website at www.puc.idaho.gov by clicking on "File Room" and then "Multi-Utility Cases."

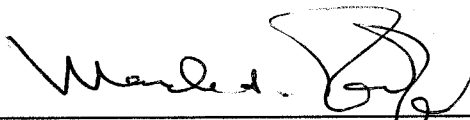
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and that the Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority under Title 61.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted according to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000, *et seq.*

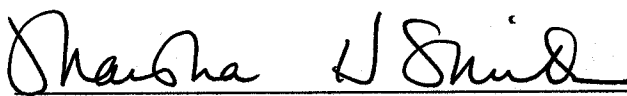
ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Staff conduct public workshops and submit initial comments and a final report as set out above.

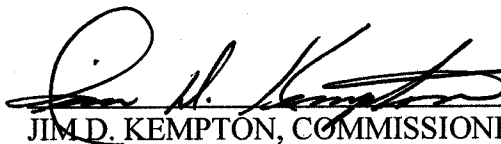
DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho, this 29th day of September 2008.



MACK A. REDFORD, PRESIDENT

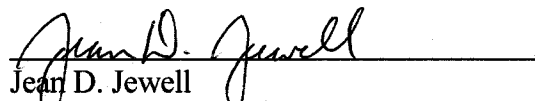


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



JIM D. KEMPTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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