

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMMISSION'S)	
INQUIRY ABOUT ENERGY)	CASE NO. GNR-U-08-01
AFFORDABILITY ISSUES AND)	
WORKSHOPS)	ORDER NO. 30661
)	

On September 29, 2008, the Commission issued a "Notice of Public Workshops" which initiated a public forum to explore "issues related to the affordability of energy in our state." Order No. 30644 at 1. On October 3, 2008, the Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI) filed a Petition to Intervene. In its Petition, CAPAI indicated its desire to "participate in this proceeding as a party and introduce testimony and exhibits, cross-examine other witnesses, engage in oral argument, file comments, and otherwise fully participate as a party."

The purpose of our public forum is to examine issues surrounding energy affordability. In particular, the Commission noted that energy affordability has become an important issue for many Idaho households and businesses as energy rates increase. The Notice of Public Workshops directed our energy utilities to take part in the workshops. Besides the utilities, all other "interested customers and organizations are also encouraged to participate." *Id.* The Notice also set out a proposed list of topics, a workshop schedule, and provided an opportunity for further public comment. Because the workshops are open to all participants, our Notice did not set a deadline for intervention.

FINDINGS OF FACT

After reviewing CAPAI's Petition to Intervene, we decline to grant intervention status because participation in our public workshops is open to all. The workshop format was chosen for this initial stage to allow any and all persons/parties to participate. The Commission anticipates that these informal workshops may lead to the filing of formal cases or further interest in more formal proceedings. At that time, any interested potential parties will have an opportunity to intervene.

We find that intervention, for purposes of participating in a multi-utility case limited to workshops and comments, is unnecessary and contrary to the intended objective. This

proceeding is an open group effort in which participants gather to discuss a variety of issues involving energy affordability. It is not yet the typical Commission proceeding where parties petition for intervenor status and present evidence through formal testimony and/or exhibits.

We further find that any benefit provided as a right of intervention, i.e., entering exhibits, cross-examining witnesses, engaging in oral argument, etc., is moot based on the chosen format for this case. Finally, we find that open workshops soliciting any and all participation is consistent with Title 61 of the Idaho Code "to encourage participation at all stages of all proceedings before the commission so that all affected customers receive full and fair representation in those proceedings." *Idaho Code* § 61-617A.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Petition to Intervene filed by CAPAI is hereby denied.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho, this 24th day of October 2008.



MACK A. REDFORD, PRESIDENT

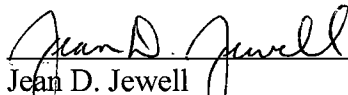


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



JIM D. KEMPTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

O:GNR-U-08-01_ks2