

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE COVID-19 RESPONSE) **CASE NO. GNR-U-20-01**
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)
) **ORDER NO. 35058**

In early 2020, the Governor declared the COVID-19 pandemic to be an emergency. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), Central District Health (CDH), and other public health authorities then adopted standards to help prevent COVID-19 from spreading. The Commission, in turn, initiated this docket and issued orders to foster safe practices at the Commission. The Commission’s latest COVID-response order, Order No. 34781, took effect on September 17, 2020.

Recently, public health authorities have relaxed their COVID-19 guidelines.¹ In summary, the new guidelines suggest that fully vaccinated persons may meet without wearing masks or maintaining six feet of distance between each other. Because of the new guidelines, the Commission finds it appropriate to replace Order No. 34781 with a new order. The Commission continues to find, under Rule 13 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure (IDAPA 31.01.01.13), it is in the public interest to provide flexibility for utilities, parties, and the public to participate in Commission proceedings and activities. Consequently, the Commission orders as follows:

- 1. Persons are Encouraged to Continue to Utilize Available Virtual Platforms to Attend Commission Meetings, Hearings and Other Proceedings.** The Commission has enabled interested persons to attend the Commission’s public meetings in-person or by telephone or other electronic means. We have found these alternative platforms to be an effective means of participation. We continue to encourage remote attendance opportunities when possible. We also encourage persons and parties to consider the value of remote attendance for mediations, settlements, workshops, and other Commission-related matters. *See* Rules 211 through 215; 243; and 271 through 277.


¹ *See* e.g., Central District Health Lifts Public Health Advisory, May 13, 2021 (<https://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/pdfs/News/2021/5-13-21-CDH-Lifts-Public-Health-Advisory.pdf>); Idaho Department of Health and Welfare’s Stage 4 Stay Healthy Guidelines, dated May 11, 2021 (<https://rebound.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/stage4-stay-healthy-guidelines-051121.pdf>). *See also* CDC’s Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, dated May 13, 2021 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>).

2. **Safety Precautions to be Observed When Physically Attending Meetings.** The IDHW and CDH guidelines in effect when a Commission proceeding occurs may apply differently to a person depending on the person's vaccination status. Persons wishing to physically attend Commission proceedings should adhere to those guidelines.
3. **Electronic Filing by Parties.** The requirements of Rules 61 and 62 that a specified number of copies of different pleadings be filed with the Commission is suspended. Filings of applications and other pleadings with the Commission will be deemed filed when the electronic submission is received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. (Voluminous discovery-related documents, may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.) Notice to customers of a change in rates must still be accomplished by a mailing. *See* Rule 125.
4. **Electronic Service of Commission Notices and Orders.** The Commission Secretary has the discretion to serve all Commission notices and orders by electronic mail. *See* Rule 16.01. The Commission will continue to issue all notices and orders by electronic mail, except for any Summons or Complaint, which will continue to be served by registered/certified mail. *See* Rule 16.01.

This order is effective immediately and will continue in effect until rescinded, superseded or otherwise amended by the Commission or its authorized representative.

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DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 3rd day of June 2021.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

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