Brad Little, Governor

Eric Anderson, President John Chatburn, Commissioner John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

Case No. IPC-E-22-22 Order No. 35558 Contact: Adam Rush Office: (208) 334-0339

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NEWS RELEASE: Idaho Public Utilities Commission schedules hearings to take public testimony on Idaho Power net-metering study.

BOISE (Oct. 14, 2022) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host three public hearings to take testimony on a net-metering study conducted by Idaho Power to examine the costs, benefits and compensation of net-excess energy associated with customer on-site generation.

In June of this year, Idaho Power released the Value of Distributed Energy Resources, or VODER study of its on-site generation program. The program allows Idaho Power customers to pay an independent contractor to have solar panels or other systems installed on their homes or property and then receive credit from the utility for the surplus energy they deliver to it.

The hearings are an opportunity for the public to submit testimony that will become part of the record.

The first public hearing will be Thursday, Oct. 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel in Pocatello, 1555 Pocatello Creek Road. Those attending in-person will have the opportunity to submit testimony. People may also listen to the testimony by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering meeting number 2460 338 6337.

The second hearing will be Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the auditorium at the Vera C. O'Leary Middle School in Twin Falls, 2350 Elizabeth Boulevard. Those attending in-person will have the opportunity to submit testimony. People may also listen to the testimony by calling 1-415-655-0001 and entering meeting number 2455 251 2587.

The third hearing will be on Thursday, Nov. 3, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Boulevard, Building 8, Suite 201-A. Those attending in-person will have the opportunity to submit testimony. People may also listen to the testimony by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2454 163 5014.

Those calling in won't be able to submit testimony, but will be able to listen.

Previous orders from the public utilities commission led to the creation of the VODER study. On Dec. 20, 2019, the commission directed Idaho Power to prepare and file a credible and fair study of the costs and benefits of distributed on-site generation to Idaho Power's system. On Dec. 30, 2021, the commission issued an order that determined specific topics and issues to be covered in the study.

Also on Dec. 20, 2019, the commission granted legacy treatment to customers who had installed, or submitted an application to install with a financial commitment, an on-site generation system under Schedules 6 and 8 (Case No. IPC-E-18-15, Order No. 34509.) Customers in Schedule 6 and Schedule 8 are residential and small general service customers.

Schedule 84 defines the terms for commercial, industrial, and irrigation customers who are participating in on-site generation. In Case No. IPC-E-20-26, Order No. 34854, customers in this schedule were given legacy treatment under the same conditions as customers in Schedules 6 and 8 above.

The primary objective of the on-site generation study and corresponding modifications to the program is to establish a sustainable on-site generation program that is fair and equitable. Ideally, the parameters of the program should minimize or eliminate cross-subsidies that could exist between participants and non-participants of on-site generation.

Members of the public who are not parties to the case may submit comments regarding whether or not they think the study satisfies the public utility commission's directives the study was to address. Written comments in support or opposition can be filed no later than Friday, Nov. 4, 2022. Comments are required to be filed by e-mail unless e-mail is unavailable. To submit comments via e-mail, please visit the commission's webpage at puc.idaho.gov. Click on the "Case Comment Form" link toward the top left of the page. Please use case number IPC-E-22-22 when filling out the form. Any comments should also be sent to Idaho Power at the e-mail addresses listed below. If e-mail is unavailable, comments may be mailed to the commission and Idaho Power at these addresses:

For the Idaho Public Utilities Commission:

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To learn more about the VODER study, please visit: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6879.