



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Brad Little, Governor

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Case No. IPC-E-24-14
Order No. 36220
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NEWS RELEASE: Commission is accepting written comments on utility's application to include non-fuel operations and maintenance expenses in balancing account.

BOISE (June 12, 2024) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on an application from Idaho Power to include non-fuel operations and maintenance expenses associated with plant operations in the Jim Bridger Power Plant balancing account.

The power plant is located near Rock Springs, Wyoming, and consists of four generating units. PacifiCorp has two-thirds ownership of the plant and is the operator of it. Idaho Power owns one-third of the plant. Idaho Power and PacifiCorp jointly make decisions regarding the plant, including required investments and the retirement of the plant.

Idaho Power's coal plants have transitioned in recent years to having a lifespan dictated by economic and regulatory factors. The utility said because the economic and regulatory factors that will determine the plant's actual operating life are likely to shift and change over the next years, it was important for the utility to have a cost recovery mechanism that could mitigate rate volatility that would otherwise exist under a more traditional ratemaking approach. In a previous order, the public utilities commission approved a balancing account mechanism that is designed to smooth revenue requirement impacts associated with the elimination of coal-fired operations at the plant and full recovery of coal-related costs by Dec. 31, 2030.

Idaho Power and PacifiCorp are in the process of converting the plant from coal-fired to a natural gas plant. Once gas-fired operations begin, the utilities will be required to make capital investments necessary for operation. In addition, non-fuel operation and maintenance expenses will continue, including costs for day-to-day supervision, maintenance, administration and general operation. Non-fuel operation and maintenance expenses include labor expenses, non-labor project costs such as materials and supplies, use of contractors and outside services, equipment and vehicles, equipment leases, travel, environmental remediation costs, and administrative and general expenses, among other items.

The commission is accepting written comments on Idaho Power's application until Aug. 20, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments using the commission website, please visit puc.idaho.gov and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the

page. Please use case number IPC-E-24-14 when filling out the form. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Idaho Power at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number IPC-E-24-14. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Idaho Power at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number IPC-E-24-14.

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Additional information on Idaho Power's application is available at puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7293.