



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Order No. 37064

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NEWS RELEASE: Commission Approves Northern Idaho Electric Utility's Wildfire Mitigation Plan

BOISE (June 11, 2026) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued an order approving Avista Utilities' wildfire mitigation plan (WMP). The plan offers information on work the utility is doing to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Electric utilities submit WMPs to the Commission pursuant to the Wildfire Standard of Care Act (WSCA). The WSCA requires the Commission to annually approve the plans for investor-owned electric utilities. Under the WSCA, if a wildfire results in a lawsuit against an electric utility, there is the presumption the utility acted without negligence if it reasonably implemented a Commission-approved WMP. Municipal and cooperative electric utilities, which are not regulated by the Commission, may voluntarily submit plans for the Commission's review.

Avista Utilities said the WMP is built around a geographical risk assessment, which utilizes a risk-informed approach that considers wildfire probability and consequence to identify areas that may be subject to potential heightened wildfire risk in locations where the utility has infrastructure or equipment. In addition to the geographical risk assessment, the plan includes information on situational awareness, grid hardening, enhanced vegetation management and operations and emergency response.

The Commission issued an order approving the WMP on June 9, 2026. It found that when reasonably weighing cost mitigation, the WMP addresses wildfire risk identification and assessment, preventative and corrective mitigation measures, public outreach and governmental coordination, infrastructure inspection and maintenance, operational practices, vegetation management, situational awareness, emergency response planning and public communication protocols.

Additional information on the WMP is available at: puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7660.