



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Case No. CO1-E-26-01
Order No. 37102
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NEWS RELEASE: Commission Denies Electric Utility's Application Seeking Approval of Wildfire Mitigation Plan

BOISE (July 17, 2026) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied an application submitted by Clearwater Power Company seeking approval of the utility's 2026 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP). While acknowledging the work Clearwater Power invested in developing its plan, the Commission determined the WMP does not contain sufficient information needed for its approval.

Electric utilities submit the 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 utilities. Under the WSCA, if a wildfire results in a lawsuit against an electric utility, there is a presumption that 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.

Clearwater Power submitted its plan to the Commission on Jan. 20, 2026. The WMP offered information on fuel and vegetation management, workforce training, community outreach, government coordination and preventive actions as well as programs designed to reduce wildfire risk, among other items.

In its order issued on July 16, 2026, the Commission determined the WMP needed additional information on subjects including wildfire-specific vegetation risks, consistent performance metrics, historical trend data, project-level cost information, quality assurance programs and explanations of how specific mitigation investments reduce wildfire risk. The Commission also determined that future WMPs should provide additional information on operational practices during heightened wildfire conditions.

In its order, the Commission encouraged Clearwater Power to continue working with Commission Staff, the Idaho Department of Lands and other stakeholders on the development of its next WMP.

The utility serves customers in 11 counties in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

Additional information is available at: <https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7693>.