



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074

Brad Little, Governor

Edward Lodge, President

John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner

Dayn Hardie, Commissioner

Case No. C10-E-26-01

Order No. 37120

Contact: Adam Rush

Office: (208) 334-0339

E-mail Address: adam.rush@puc.idaho.gov

NEWS RELEASE: Commission Denies Northern Idaho Electric Utility's Application Seeking Approval of Wildfire Mitigation Plan

BOISE (Aug. 4, 2026) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied an application submitted by Northern Lights Inc. seeking approval of the utility's 2026 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP). The Commission determined the WMP did not contain sufficient information on wildfire risk modeling and other required elements.

Electric utilities file wildfire mitigation plans with the Commission pursuant to the Wildfire Standard of Care Act (WSCA). The WSCA requires the Commission to annually approve WMPs for investor-owned electric utilities. Under the WSCA, if a wildfire results in a lawsuit against an electric utility, there is a 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 wildfire mitigation plans for the Commission's review.

Each utility's WMP identifies areas where the utility has infrastructure or equipment that may be subject to heightened wildfire risk at the time the plan is finalized. The WMP also describes the actions and programs the utility will use to reduce wildfire risk, as well as outlining community outreach and public awareness efforts before, during and after wildfire season. In addition, the utility will inform the public of relevant wildfire risk.

The Commission issued an order on Aug. 3, 2026, denying the application. In addition to directing Northern Lights to submit more information on wildfire risk modeling in future WMPs, the Commission instructed the utility to provide information on the type, condition and age of system components. The Commission also directed Northern Lights to describe how, if at all, its vegetation management practices differ in areas it has designated as high fire risk. In addition, the utility must explain how it will measure the success of the implementation of a WMP and work with counties where the utility's system is located to improve wildfire response and mitigation efforts, among other items.

Additional information on the WMP is available at: <https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7702>.