



# IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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# Table of Contents

Commissioners .....	4
Financial summary.....	6
Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024.....	6
Commission Structure & Operations .....	7
Commission staff .....	9
Administration .....	9
Legal .....	10
Utilities Division .....	10
Railroad Safety.....	11
Pipeline Safety .....	11
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TELL THEM NO?.....	12
Electric.....	13
Water.....	37
Regulated Water Companies .....	37
Telecommunications.....	57
Regulated Telecommunication Companies .....	57
AT&T.....	58
ATC Communications .....	59
Natural Gas .....	68
Consumer Assistance.....	78
Complaints by Industry.....	78
Summary of Issues .....	79
Railroad Safety .....	80
Railroad Activity Summary .....	80
Pipeline Safety.....	81
Pipeline Safety Activity Summary .....	81
Contact List.....	82



## Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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

Brad Little, Governor

Eric Anderson, President  
John R. Hammond, Jr., Commissioner  
Edward Lodge, Commissioner

December 1, 2024

The Honorable Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho  
Statehouse  
Boise, ID 83720-0034

Dear Governor Little:

It is our distinct pleasure to submit to you, in accordance with Idaho Code §61-214, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's 2024 Annual Report. This report is a detailed description of the most significant cases, decisions, and other activities during 2024. The financial report on page six is a summary of the Commission's budget through the conclusion of Fiscal Year 2024, which ended June 30, 2024.

It has been a privilege and honor serving the people of Idaho this past year.

Sincerely,

Eric Anderson  
President, Idaho Public Utilities Commission

John R. Hammond, Jr.  
Commissioner

Edward Lodge  
Commissioner

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# COMMISSIONERS



**Commission President Eric Anderson** was appointed to his current six-year term in January 2019 by Gov. Brad Little. It is his second term on the Commission, having been initially appointed in December 2015 by former Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter.

Commissioner Anderson serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Water as well as its Committee on International Relations. In November 2019 Commissioner Anderson was appointed Chair of NARUC’s Committee on Water.

Before joining the Commission, Anderson served five terms in the Idaho Legislature, from 2004-2014, and was chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a member of the Idaho House of Representatives, Anderson served on a number of committees, including Environment, Energy and Technology, Commerce and Human Resources, Resource and Conservation, Business, and State Affairs. He also chaired a legislative Interim Subcommittee on Renewable Energy.

Anderson received a Bachelor of Art degree in political science and government from Eastern Washington University.

A general contractor and real estate broker, Anderson also served as director and vice president of Sandpoint-based Northern Lights Inc., an electric cooperative.

He has also served as a director of the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and the Idaho Energy Resources Authority. He is a past member of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Advisory Council and the Pacific Northwest Economic Region’s Executive Council.



**Commissioner John R. Hammond, Jr.** was appointed to his first term with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission by Governor Brad Little in January of 2022.

Prior to being appointed to the Commission, John worked for the Idaho Office of the Attorney General as a Deputy Attorney General and later as the Commission's lead Deputy Attorney General. During his career, John was a partner at Fisher Pusch LLP in Boise. Prior to this John served as a law clerk to the Hon. Terry L. Myers, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Idaho and as the pro se law clerk to the Federal District Court for the District of Idaho.

Commissioner Hammond serves as the State of Idaho representative on the Western Energy Imbalance Market Body of State Regulators (WEIM-BOSR) where he is the vice-chair, Committee of State Representatives (COSR), the vice-chair of the Markets+ State Committee, on the standing committee of the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP), the Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC), on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the vice-chair of the Committee on Electricity for NARUC.

John earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Idaho and his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Idaho School of Law. He is licensed to practice law in the state of Idaho.



**Commissioner Edward Lodge** was appointed to his first six-year term with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission by Governor Brad Little in February of 2023.

Before joining the Commission, Lodge served as a Policy Assistant and Communications Director under Governor Philip Batt (1994-1998), Special Assistant to Governor Dirk Kempthorne (1999), and as Government Affairs Specialist for Connolly and Smyser, Chartered (1999-2004). Lodge also served as Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Qwest/CenturyLink (2004-2020).

Commissioner Lodge serves on the National Association of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (NARUC) Committee on Water.

Lodge received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Management and Organizational Leadership from George Fox University in 2005 as well as a Master of Business Administration degree from George Fox University in 2008.

Commissioner Lodge serves as President of Lodge Cattle Company and Random Ventures and sits on the Executive Board for Caldwell Night Rodeo, and the Western Heritage Foundation.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Fiscal Years 2020 – 2024

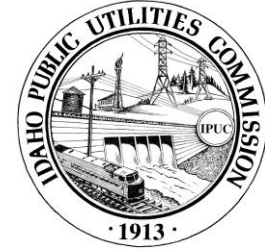
Financial Summary - Fund 0229

\*This summary represents assessment funded expenses only. It does not include federal or other funds.

Description	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Personnel Costs	3,576,800	3,356,200	3,618,600	4,205,800	4,524,000
Communication Costs	27,500	26,000	53,500	25,800	29,800
Employee Development Costs	51,300	41,600	64,300	88,100	78,600
Professional Services	7,500	17,600	47,000	55,500	12,000
Legal Fees	630,500	524,500	595,500	603,400	481,800
Employee Travel Costs	140,000	17,000	164,300	234,000	232,600
Fuel & Lubricants	7,300	3,400	5,800	7,500	7,900
Insurance	7,300	7,800	8,600	7,700	3,200
Rentals & Leases	390,600	250,500	250,500	281,000	251,700
Misc. Expenditures	969,000	241,400	143,800	201,700	276,900
Computer Equipment	2,200	89,500	14,000	11,800	27,500
Office Equipment Motorized/Non-Motorized Equip	39,000	2,200	5,400	2,900	11,200
	-	59,200	-	0	42,400
Specific Use Equipment	-	-	1,500	1,200	700
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,849,000</b>	<b>4,636,900</b>	<b>4,972,800</b>	<b>5,726,400</b>	<b>5,980,300</b>
<b>Fund 0229-20 Appropriation</b>	<b>7,512,400</b>	<b>5,998,300</b>	<b>6,148,500</b>	<b>6,397,700</b>	<b>6,584,500</b>
<b>Fund 0229-20 Encumbrances</b>	<b>124,900</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>14,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Unexpended Balance</b>	<b>1,538,500</b>	<b>1,359,700</b>	<b>1,164,300</b>	<b>678,100</b>	<b>603,300</b>

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# COMMISSION STRUCTURE & OPERATIONS



Under state law, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (Commission or IPUC) supervises and regulates Idaho’s investor-owned utilities – electric, gas, telecommunications, and water – assuring adequate service and affixing just, reasonable and sufficient rates.

The Commission does not regulate publicly owned, municipal, or cooperative utilities.

The Governor appoints the three Commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate. No more than two Commissioners may be of the same political party. The Commissioners serve staggered six-year terms.

The Governor may remove a Commissioner before his/her term has expired for dereliction of duty, corruption or incompetence.

The three-member Commission was established by the 12th Session of the Idaho Legislature and was organized May 8, 1913, as the Public Utilities Commission of the State of Idaho. In 1951 it was reorganized as the Idaho Public Utilities Commission. Statutory authorities for the Commission are established in Idaho Code Titles 61 and 62.

The Commission has quasi-legislative, quasi-judicial, and executive powers and duties.

In its quasi-legislative capacity, the Commission sets rates and makes rules governing utility operations. In its quasi-judicial mode, the Commission hears and decides complaints, issues written orders that are similar to court orders and may have its decisions appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court. In its executive capacity, the Commission enforces state laws and rules affecting public utilities and the rail industry.



Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates. Annual assessments are set by the Commission each year in April within limits set by law.

The Commission president is its chief executive officer. Commissioners meet on the first Monday in April in odd-numbered years to elect one of their own to a two-year term as president. The president signs contracts on the Commission’s behalf, is the final authority in personnel matters and handles other administrative tasks. Chairmanship of individual cases is rotated among all three Commissioners.

The Commission conducts its business in two types of meetings – **hearings** and **decision meetings**. Decision meetings are typically held once a week, usually on Tuesday.

Formal **hearings** are held on a case-by-case basis, sometimes in the service area of the impacted utility. These hearings resemble judicial proceedings and are recorded and transcribed by a court reporter.

There are **technical hearings** and **customer hearings**. At technical hearings, formal parties who have been granted “intervenor status” present testimony and evidence, subject to cross-examination by attorneys from the other parties, Commission Staff attorneys and the Commissioners. At customer hearings, members of the public may testify before the Commission.



**PUC hearing room**

In 2009, the Commission began conducting **telephonic public hearings** on a case-by-case basis to save expense and allow customers to listen from the comfort of their own homes. Commissioners and other interested parties gather in the hearing room and are telephonically connected to ratepayers who call in on a toll-free line to provide testimony or listen in. A court reporter is present to take testimony. Commissioners and attorneys may also direct questions to those testifying.

The Commission also conducts regular **decision meetings** to consider issues on an agenda prepared by the Commission Secretary and posted in advance of the meeting. These meetings are usually held Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., although by law the Commission is required to meet only once a month. Members of the public are welcome to attend decision meetings.

**Decision meetings** consist of the Commission’s review of decision memoranda prepared by Commission Staff (Staff). Minutes of the meetings are taken. Decisions reached at these meetings may be either final or preliminary, but subsequently become final when the Commission issues a written order signed by a majority of the Commission. Under the Idaho Open Meeting Law, Commissioners may also privately deliberate fully submitted matters.



**PUC headquarters 11331 W. Chinden Blvd.  
Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise, Idaho 83714.**

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# COMMISSION STAFF

To help ensure its decisions are fair and workable, the Commission employs a Staff of about 55 people – engineers, utility analysts, attorneys, auditors, investigators, economists, secretaries, and other support personnel. The Staff is organized in three divisions – administration, legal and utilities.

## OUR MISSION

- **Determine fair, just, and reasonable rates and utility practices for electric, gas, telephone, and water consumers.**
- **Ensure that delivery of utility services is safe, reliable, and efficient.**
- **Ensure safe operation of pipelines and rail carriers within the state.**

## Administration

The Administrative Division is responsible for coordinating overall IPUC activities. The division includes the three Commissioners, up to three policy strategists, the Commission Secretary, an Executive Director, and support personnel.

The Executive Director has primary responsibility for the Commission’s fiscal and administrative operations, preparing the Commission budget and supervising fiscal, administration, public information, personnel, information systems, rail section operations and pipeline safety. The Executive Director also serves as a liaison between the Commission and other state agencies and the Legislature.

**Contact Maria Barratt-Riley, Executive Director, at 208-334-0337.**

The Commission Secretary, a post established by Idaho law, keeps a precise public record of all Commission proceedings. The Commission Secretary issues notices, orders and other documents to the proper parties and is the official custodian of documents issued by and filed with the Commission. Most of these documents are public records.

**Contact Monica Barrios-Sanchez, Commission Secretary, at 208-334-0338.**

The Policy Strategists are executive level positions reporting directly to the Commissioners with policy and technical consultation and research support regarding major regulatory issues in the areas of electricity, telecommunications, water, and natural gas. The Policy Strategists are also charged with developing comprehensive policy strategy, providing assistance and advice on major issues before the Commission, public agencies, and organizations.

**Contact Josh Haver, Policy Strategist, at 208-334-0351**

**Contact Stephen Goodson, Policy Strategist, at 208-334-0323.**

The Public Information Officer is responsible for public communication between the Commission, the general public and interfacing governmental offices. The responsibility includes news releases, responses to public inquiries, coordinating and facilitating Commission workshops and public hearings.

**Contact Adam Rush, Public Information Officer, at 208-334-0339.**

## Legal

Four deputy attorneys general are assigned to the Commission from the Idaho Office of the Attorney General and have offices at IPUC headquarters. The IPUC attorneys represent the Staff in all matters before the Commission, working closely with Staff auditors, engineers, investigators, utility analysts as they develop their recommendations for cases and proceedings.

In the hearing room, attorneys help coordinate the presentation of the Staff's case and cross-examine other parties who submit testimony. The attorneys also represent the Commission itself in state and federal courts and before other state or federal regulatory agencies.

**Contact Keri Hawker, Legal Admin Support, at 208-334-0324.**

## Utilities Division

The Utilities Division, responsible for technical analysis of utility matters before the Commission, is divided into four sections; Audit, Engineering, Technical Analysis, Telecommunications, Consumer Assistance.

The Staff analyzes each petition, complaint, rate change request or application for an operating certificate received by the Commission. In formal proceedings before the Commission, the Staff acts as a separate party to the case, presenting its own testimony, evidence and expert witnesses. The Commission considers staff recommendations along with those of other participants in each case - including utilities, public, agricultural, industrial, business and consumer groups.

**Contact Chris McEwan, Utilities Division Administrator, at 208-334-0356.**

The **Audit** section of six auditors and one program manager audits utility books and records to verify reported revenue, expenses and compliance with Commission orders. Staff auditors present the results of their findings in audit reports as well as in formal testimony and exhibits. When a utility requests a rate increase, cost-of-capital studies are performed to determine a recommended rate of return. Revenues, expenses and investments are analyzed to determine the amount needed for the utility to earn the recommended return on its investment.

**Contact Donn English, Accounting Section Program Manager, at 208-334-0362.**

The **Engineering** section of two engineers, three utility analysts, and one program manager reviews the physical operations of utilities. The Staff of engineers and analysts analyzes computer models of utility operations and compares alternative costs to repair, replace and acquire facilities to serve utility customers. The group establishes the price of acquiring cogeneration and renewable generation facilities, ensures the resources the Company acquires to serve customers are prudent, identifies the cost of serving various types of customers, evaluate the adequacy of utility services, and frequently help resolve customer complaints.

**Contact Mike Louis, Engineering Section Program Manager, at 208-334-0316.**

The **Technical Analysis** section of four utility analysts and one program manager determines the cost effectiveness of all Demand Side Management (DSM) programs including energy efficiency and demand response. They identify potential for new DSM programs and track the impact on utility revenues. They review utility forecasts of energy, water, and natural gas usage with focus on residential self-generation and rate design.

**Contact Taylor Thomas, Technical Analysis Program Manager, at 208-334-0363.**

The **Telecommunications** section oversees tariff and price list filings, area code oversight, Idaho Universal Service Fund, Idaho Telecommunications Service Assistance Program, Telephone Relay Service, and Lifeline. They assist and advise the Commission on technical matters that include advanced services, 911 and other matters as requested.

**Contact Johan E. Kalala-Kasanda, Utility Analyst 2, at 208-334-0361.**

The **Consumer Assistance** section includes four division investigators and one program manager who resolve conflicts between utilities and their customers. Consumer Assistance may mediate disputes over billing, deposits, line extensions and other service problems. Consumer Assistance monitors Idaho utilities to verify they are complying with Commission orders and regulations. Investigators participate in general rate and policy cases when rate design and customer service issues are brought before the Commission.

**Contact Allison Moore, Consumer Assistance Program Manager, at 208-334-0352.**

## **Railroad Safety**

The **Railroad Safety** section oversees the safe operations of railroads that move freight in and through Idaho and enforces state and federal regulations safeguarding the transportation of hazardous materials by rail in Idaho. The Commission's rail safety specialists inspect railroad crossings and rail clearances for safety and maintenance deficiencies. The Rail Safety section helps investigate all railroad-crossing accidents and makes recommendations for safety improvements to crossings.

As part of its regulatory authority, the Commission evaluates the discontinuance and abandonment of railroad service in Idaho by conducting an independent evaluation of each case to determine whether the abandonment of a particular railroad line would adversely affect Idaho shippers and whether the line has any profit potential. Should the Commission determine abandonment would be harmful to Idaho interests, it then represents the state before the federal Surface Transportation Board, which has authority to grant or deny line abandonments.

**Contact Mike Mitchell, Rail Inspector, at 208-334-0317.**

## **Pipeline Safety**

The **Pipeline Safety** section oversees the safe operation of the intrastate natural gas pipelines in Idaho.

The Commission's pipeline safety personnel verify compliance with state and federal regulations by performing on-site inspections of intrastate pipeline distribution, gathering and transmission systems. Part of the inspection process includes a review of record-keeping practices and compliance with design, construction, operation, maintenance and drug/alcohol abuse regulations.

Key objectives of the program are to monitor accidents and violations, to identify their contributing factors and to implement practices to avoid accidents. All reportable accidents are investigated and appropriate reports filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation in a timely manner.

**Contact Jeff Brooks, Pipeline Safety Program Manager, at 208-334-0333.**

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# WHY CAN'T YOU JUST TELL THEM NO?

One of the most frequently asked questions the Commission receives after a utility files a rate increase application is, “**Why can’t you just tell them no?**” Actually, we can, but not without evidence.

For more than 100 years, public utility regulation has been based on this **regulatory compact** between utilities and regulators: Regulated utilities agree to invest in the generation, transmission, and distribution necessary to adequately and reliably serve all the customers in their assigned territories. In return for that promise to serve, utilities are guaranteed recovery of their prudently incurred expenses along with an opportunity to earn a reasonable rate of return. The rate of return allowed must be high enough to attract investors for the utility’s capital-intensive generation, transmission, and distribution projects, but not so high as to be unreasonable for customers.

In setting rates, the Commission must consider the needs of both the utility and its customers. The Commission serves the public interest, not the popular will. It is not in customers’ best interest, nor is it in the interest of the State of Idaho, to have utilities that do not have the generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure to be able to provide safe, adequate and reliable electrical, natural gas and water service. This is a critical, even life-saving, service for Idaho’s citizens and essential to the state’s economic development and prosperity.

Unlike unregulated businesses, utilities cannot cut back on service as costs increase. As demand for electricity, natural gas and water grows, utilities are statutorily required to meet that demand. In Idaho recently, and across the nation, a continued increase in demand as well as a number of other factors have contributed to rate increases on a scale we have not witnessed before. It is not unusual now for Idaho’s three major investor-owned electric utilities to file annual rate increase requests. In light of these continued requests for rate increases, the Commission walks a fine line in balancing the needs of utilities to serve customers and customers’ ability to pay.

When a rate case is filed, our staff of auditors, engineers and attorneys will take up to six months to examine the request. During that period, other parties, often representing customer groups, will “intervene” in the case for the purpose of conducting discovery, presenting evidence, and cross-examining the company and other parties to the case. The Staff, which operates independently of the Commission, will also file its own comments that result from its investigation of the company’s request. The three-member Commission will also conduct technical and public hearings.

Once testimony from a utility, Staff, and intervening parties is presented and testimony from hearings and written comments is taken, all of that information is included in the official record for the case. It is only from the evidence contained in this official record that the Commission can render a decision.

If the utility has met its burden of proof in demonstrating that the additional expense it incurred was 1) **necessary** to serve customers and 2) **prudently incurred**, the Commission must allow the utility to recover that expense. The Commission can -- and often does -- deny recovery of some or all the expense utilities seek to recover from customers if the Commission is confident, it has the legal justification to do so. Utilities and parties to a rate case have the right to petition the Commission for reconsideration. Following reconsideration, utilities or customer groups can appeal the Commission’s decision to the Idaho Supreme Court. In the end, the Commission’s job is to ensure that customers are paying a reasonable rate and are receiving adequate and reliable service and that utilities are allowed to recover their prudently incurred expenses and earn a fair rate of return.

# ELECTRIC



## Avista Utilities\*

2023 Average Number of Customers/Avg. Revenue/kwh\*\*

366,450 Residential Customers/\$0.10578

45,341 Commercial Customers/\$0.10872

1,188 Industrial Customers/\$0.07190



## Idaho Power Company

2023 Average Number of Customers/Avg. Revenue/kwh\*\*

511,098 Residential Customers/\$0.1165

93,283 Commercial Customers/\$0.0908

125 Industrial Customers/\$0.0687



## Rocky Mountain Power

2023 Average Number of Customers/Avg. Revenue/kwh\*\*

73,216 Residential Customers/\$0.1117

10,951 Commercial Customers/\$0.0951

6,318 Industrial Customers/\$0.0760

\*INCLUDES BOTH IDAHO AND WASHINGTON CUSTOMERS.

\*\* THE INFORMATION ABOVE SHOWS EACH REGULATED ELECTRIC UTILITY'S AVERAGE NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS PER CUSTOMER CLASS AND THE AVERAGE REVENUE PER KILOWATT-HOUR (KWH) FOR 2022.

# Electric Press Releases from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2024

## Avista Utilities

### **Commission rejects application from electric utility and lumber company to amend power purchase agreement**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has declined an application from an electric utility and lumber company that would amend a power purchase agreement they entered into.

Avista Utilities and Stimson Lumber asked for commission approval to amend a power purchase agreement to account for anticipated periods when the lumber company would not be operating between Jan. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2025. Stimson told Avista that the lumber company expects there to be extended periods when it would not be operating. However, the power purchase agreement they entered into requires Stimson to pay Avista a use-of-facilities charge during the entire power purchase agreement term.

A proposed amendment that the two submitted to the commission in their application would alter the requirement and allow Stimson to not pay the use-of-facilities charge for the months the lumber company was not operating.

Commission staff expressed concern the amendment would have a negative effective on other Avista ratepayers when the lumber company was idle. The use-of-facilities charge is based on an annual amount of \$8,448, or \$704 per month. If the use-of-facilities rate is charged at a monthly rate of \$704 for only the months when Stimson's facilities were used, the annual use-of-facilities charge would be below the \$8,448 annual rate needed, with other customers paying the difference.

The commission, after reviewing the application, determined the request to amend the power purchase agreement to not pay the use-of-facilities charge was not fair, just or reasonable in certain situations because it would shift the recovery of costs to other customers. The commission understood Avista's wish to charge Stimson a lower rate tied to the months Stimson uses the facilities. However, that type of design would alter the purpose of use-of-facilities fees.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7266](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7266).

### **Commission approves petition granting temporary waiver of master metering prohibition**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a petition that will allow a northern Idaho electric utility

to continue to provide service to the Clearwater Paper Corporation while it sells its consumer products division to another company.

In late September, Clearwater Paper, Avista Utilities and Sofidel America Corp. filed a joint petition with the commission asking that it approve a contract between Sofidel and Clearwater, and provide a temporary waiver of Avista's tariff that prohibited master-metering of electric services.

The companies said Clearwater Paper entered into an agreement to sell its consumer products division (a tissue plant) to Sofidel, and said each company would separately contract with Avista to receive electric service and energy pursuant to Avista's approved tariffs. However, because Avista's current electrical infrastructure was designed and built to serve an integrated single entity, it was not possible for Avista to separately meter and serve the tissue plant as an individual customer. The companies also said it may take up to three years for Avista to build the required infrastructure to provide separate metering to the companies.

In its decision to approve the temporary waiver, the commission found it was fair, just and reasonable to do so. The commission is requiring Avista to submit infrastructure project status reports beginning on May 31, 2025, and every six months thereafter. The waiver will be in effect until Avista is able to provide separate metering to the companies.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7419](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7419).

## **Commission approves fixed cost adjustment and power cost adjustment applications for electric utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved two applications from Avista Utilities that will result in a decrease in rates the utility's customers pay.

Avista Utilities filed a power cost adjustment (PCA) and a fixed cost adjustment (FCA) with the commission in late July.

The PCA is an annual rate adjustment that is made to reflect the difference between the actual cost of generating and buying electric power to serve customers and the cost currently included in customer rates. Avista Utilities said that over the last year, power supply costs were lower than those included in retail rates due to higher wholesale electric gas prices. The PCA was adjusted after being reviewed by commission staff.

The FCA is a mechanism designed to break the link between a utility's revenues and customers' energy usage. According to Avista Utilities, the proposed FCA rate adjustments were primarily driven by variations in 2023 customer usage related to weather and savings from participating in energy programs.

Residential electric customers in Idaho using an average of 927 kilowatt hours per month will see their monthly bills decrease from \$104.18 to \$101.09, a decrease of \$3.09 each month beginning Oct. 1, 2024.

Additional information on the commission's approval and the filings from Avista is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7343](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7343) and [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7344](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7344).

## **Public comment is being accepted on electric utility’s power cost adjustment application**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on Avista Utilities’ power cost adjustment application for the electric service it offers.

The power cost adjustment is a mechanism used to track changes in revenues and costs associated with variations in hydroelectric generation, secondary prices, thermal fuel costs, and changes in power contract revenues and expenses. Avista Utilities is proposing a rate adjustment of 0.205 cents per kilowatt-hour. If the commission approves the application, approximately \$6.6 million would be rebated to customers effective Oct. 1, 2024. Avista said the rebate is primarily associated with power supply costs that were lower than those included in retail rates, due to lower wholesale electric and natural gas prices.

The commission is accepting written comments on Avista’s application until Sept. 11, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number AVU-E-24-07 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 Avista at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number AVU-E-24-07. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Avista at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number AVU-E-24-07.

Additional information on Avista’s application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7343](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7343).

## **Commission approves power purchase agreement between Avista Utilities and Ford Hydro**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a power purchase agreement (PPA) between Avista Utilities and Ford Hydro that will allow Avista to buy power from Ford Hydro.

A previous PPA expired on June 30, 2024. In a joint petition filed with the commission, Avista and Ford Hydro said the proposed PPA would expire on June 30, 2026. The parties also said the new proposed PPA largely parallels the previous PPA but has been updated to reflect or clarify language regarding commission mandates related to the 90/110 Rule, the PPA’s provisions regarding the modifications to the Ford Hydro facility and the necessity of obtaining commission approval for amending the PPA.

The commission has approved the PPA with the requirement that a compliance filing be submitted to the commission within 30 days of Aug. 5, 2024. The compliance filing will address renewable energy credits and technology type, avoided cost rates, lapsed contract period and other items.

Ford Hydro operates a hydroelectric facility near Weippe, Idaho, that is capable of generating up to approximately 1.499 megawatts of energy. Avista Utilities provides electricity to customers in northern Idaho.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7313](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7313).

## **Commission approves utility application to update costs and administrative changes to electric line extension schedule 51**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Avista Utilities that will allow it to update costs and administrative changes to the utility's electric line extension Schedule 51.

This schedule incorporates the average costing for electric facilities commonly used to extend service. Schedule 51 sets forth basic and exceptional costs that have a fixed and variable component. The variable component is stated on a cost-per-foot basis. The basic and exceptional costs apply to infrastructure like transformers and conduit, and are based on recent average costs.

Avista updated the allowances for new residential, industrial and commercial customers' services. The updated allowances are based on an embedded cost method which seeks to ensure investments in facilities for new customers track embedded costs included in base rates. Costs that exceed the allowance must be paid by the customer and will be booked as a contribution in aid of construction.

The utility said the primary driver of higher costs are increased labor and transformer costs. Avista also said demand outpaces supply in the utility sector, driving prices upward.

The commission reviewed Avista's application and found it fair, just and reasonable to approve it.

Additional information on the application and the commission's approval of it is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7295](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7295).

## **Commission is accepting written comments on utility application to update costs and administrative changes to electric line extension schedule 51**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on an application from Avista Utilities to update costs and administrative changes to the utility's electric line extension Schedule 51.

This schedule incorporates the average costing for electric facilities commonly used to extend service. Schedule 51 sets forth basic and exceptional costs that have a fixed and variable component. The variable component is stated on a cost-per-foot basis. The basic and exceptional costs apply to infrastructure like transformers and conduit, and are based on recent average costs.

Avista updated the allowances for new residential, industrial and commercial customers' services. The updated allowances are based on an embedded cost method which seeks to ensure investments in facilities for new customers track embedded costs included in base rates. Costs that exceed the allowance must be paid by the customer and will be booked as a contribution in aid of construction.

The utility said the primary driver of higher costs are increased labor and transformer costs. Avista also said demand outpaces supply in the utility sector, driving prices upward.

The commission is accepting writing comments on the utility's application until May 1, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number AVU-E-24-05 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 Avista at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Avista at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number AVU-E-24-05.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7295](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7295).

## **Comments are being accepted on proposed service allocation agreement in northern Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on a proposed service allocation agreement between Avista Utilities and Kootenai Electric Cooperative.

The proposed agreement addresses the allocation of service territory within the Prairie Regional Shopping Center in Post Falls, Idaho. If approved by the commission, four lots within the development would be served by Avista and ten lots served by Kootenai Electric.

A service allocation agreement can be approved as long as it doesn’t conflict with the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act. The act is designed to promote harmony between electricity suppliers, prohibit the pirating of customers, discourage duplication of electric facilities, stabilize service territories and stabilize consumers.

Avista said the approval will avoid unnecessary future disputes, needless duplication of facilities and ensure the best possible electric service to Avista and Kootenai Electric customers.

The commission is accepting written comments on the proposed agreement until March 14, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission’s website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment using the commission’s website, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number AVU-E-24-01 when filling out the form. If e-mail is being used, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Avista at the e-mail addresses listed below. Comments are required to include the sender’s name, address and case number AVU-E- 24-01.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7238](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7238).

## **Commission acknowledges utility’s electric Integrated Resource Plan**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has acknowledged Avista Utility’s 2023 electric Integrated Resource Plan.

The plan, filed every two years by Avista, is used to guide the utility’s resource acquisitions. In addition, the plan explains Avista’s current load/resource position, expected response to possible future events and the role of conservation. Integrated resource plans also examine load forecast uncertainties, the effects of known or potential changes to existing resources, a consideration of demand and supply-side resource options and contingencies for upgrading, optioning and acquiring resources at optimum times.

Commission staff, after reviewing the plan, identified areas that future plans should consider. These include environmental legislation from Washington state, Western Resource Adequacy Program Planning requirements, and planning reserve margin and demand side management programs. Staff also recommended that Avista improve the integrated resource plan reliability analysis to measure resource adequacy metrics on all portfolios under evaluation across the utility's full planning horizon, and report to the public utilities commission regarding the status of Washington state's Climate Commitment Act rules and their impact on Idaho customers, among other items.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7061](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7061).

## **Written comments are being accepted on utility's application to create rate schedule for electric vehicle charging stations**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments until late February on an application from Avista Utilities to create an electric tariff Schedule 23, also known as a "direct current fast charging rate option."

This option is designed to give commercial electric-vehicle charging station owners a way to reduce market barriers associated with existing rate options. Charging station owners in Idaho using direct current fast charging would pay a certain rate for the service if Avista's application is approved by the commission. This rate would include a monthly fixed demand charge as well as a rate of \$0.085 for the first 250,000 kilowatt hours per month and a reduced rate of \$0.073 after using more than 250,000 kilowatt hours per month.

The commission is accepting written comments on the utility's application until Feb. 21, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's homepage or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment through the commission's homepage, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number AVU-E-23-16 when filling out the form. If submitting comments using e-mail, please send comments to the commission secretary and Avista at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and the utility at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7196](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7196).

## **Idaho Power Company**

### **Commission is accepting written comments on Idaho Power's continued involvement in the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on an application from Idaho Power to continue its involvement in the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance from 2025 to 2030.

The alliance consists of more than 140 utilities working to maximize energy efficiency in the Northwest, and Idaho Power said it is an active member.

In addition to seeking commission approval to continue its involvement in the organization, Idaho

Power is asking that its participation be funded through the Idaho Energy Efficiency Rider. The rider is a monthly surcharge on customers' bills that funds Idaho Power's energy efficiency programs and reduce electricity demand.

The commission is accepting written comments on Idaho Power's application until Nov. 9, 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](http://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-24-35 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-24-35. 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-24-35.

## **Commission approves territory allocation agreements in southern Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved territory allocation agreements between Idaho Power and United Electric Co-op that will allow customers to receive service from United Electric for an irrigation pump and residence.

Idaho Power and United Electric said it would be less expensive for the customers to interconnect to United Electric's system than Idaho Power's.

A territory allocation agreement can be approved as long as it doesn't conflict with the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act. The act is designed to promote harmony between electricity suppliers, prohibit the pirating of customers, discourage duplication of electric facilities, stabilize service territories and stabilize consumers.

In reaching its decision, the commission determined the territory allocation agreements followed the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act because they avoid the duplication of facilities and promote harmony between the two utilities.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7210](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7210) and [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7211](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7211).

## **Customer hearings scheduled for December to take testimony on Idaho Power application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host customer hearings in early December to take testimony on an application from Idaho Power to change the rates it charges customers.

The utility said its application focuses on recovering costs associated with infrastructure investments and labor expenses that were not included in the company's last rate case. If the commission approves the request, the average Idaho residential customer using 950 kilowatt hours per month would see a monthly bill increase of approximately \$7.48. The commission can approve, deny or modify the application.

Those interested in submitting testimony for the record can do so by attending a customer hearing in Twin Falls on Monday, Dec. 2, or on Tuesday, Dec. 3, in Boise.

The Dec. 2 hearing will be held at the Twin Falls American Legion Hall, 447 Seastrom St., Twin Falls, ID 83301. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. (MST) and end at 7:00 p.m. or after all testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing can do so by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2861 889 4514 when prompted.

The hearing in Boise will be held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Boulevard, Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise, ID 83714. It will begin at 4:00 p.m. (MST) and conclude at 7:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing can do so by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2869 194 4770 when prompted.

## **Intervenor deadline set in Idaho Power case involving irrigation peak rewards program and flex peak program**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an intervenor deadline for an application submitted by Idaho Power to make changes to its irrigation peak rewards program and flex peak program.

Intervenors in a case submitted to the commission are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

In 2009, Idaho Power created Schedule 82, under which eligible commercial and industrial customers that can offer an energy load reduction of at least 20 kilowatts can either manually, or using load control devices, automatically reduce their nominated load when Idaho Power calls for load control events. Load control events are when utilities ask customers to reduce their electricity usage during certain times. These events are triggered when a utility's grid is under high demand or experiencing an emergency. Schedule 82 participants then receive an incentive payment based on their performance in delivering their nominated load reduction during the load control events.

Schedule 23 was approved by the commission in January of 2024 and allows Idaho Power to turn off specific irrigation pipes for customers receiving service under Schedule 24 (agricultural irrigation service) in exchange for financial incentives.

Idaho Power said proposed changes to Schedules 23 and 82 are intended to increase transparency and participant satisfaction.

The changes Idaho Power is proposing include changing a variable payment so it begins on the fourth load control event rather than the fifth event. Because there are required to be a minimum of three events per season, Idaho Power said beginning the variable payments after the three minimum events would provide greater clarity to customers. Another proposed change involves an early interruption option to Schedule 23 customers. Early interruption would allow customers who wanted to participate, but also desire a cut-off time of 9:00 p.m., to participate at a reduced rate. An extended interruption option for Schedule 23 customers can last until 11:00 p.m.

Idaho Power said the increased flexibility provided by offering early interruption would allow for more

participation.

The utility also is proposing to add an incentive to Schedule 82 for customers who chose to use load control devices. This reimbursement would be the lesser of \$1,500 or the cost of installation. Idaho Power said the program's reliability would increase if more customers used load control devices.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7424](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7424).

## **Virtual workshop scheduled for Sept. 17 on Idaho Power filing to update customer surcharge for project to bury transmission line**

Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff will host a virtual, online workshop on Sept. 17 to share information on an Idaho Power compliance filing to surcharge Blaine County customers for placing an existing distribution line underground. Undergrounding the distribution line is the first phase of constructing a redundant transmission line needed to ensure reliable service to Blaine County customers.

Idaho Power plans to build a redundant 138 kilovolt transmission line in Blaine County to primarily serve the North Valley area, including Ketchum and Sun Valley. The utility also said the line now has staggered construction, necessitating a two-phase surcharge implementation. Phase one covers burying distribution lines, effective in December of 2024. Phase two addresses transmission lines, planned for 2026. Idaho Power's filing pertains to phase one, updating Schedule 96 for distribution-related charges on Blaine County customers' bills. The utility will file for approval of the phase two surcharge when the transmission line is near completion and when final costs are known.

The utility is proposing updated surcharges of \$2.00 a month for residential and small general service customers and \$8.02 a month for non-residential customers for the phase one surcharge. Non-residential customers are large general service customers, industrial customers and irrigation customers.

Commission staff will hold the workshop on Tuesday, Sept. 17, to share information on Idaho Power's filing and answer questions. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. MDT and conclude at 9:00 p.m., or until all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com) and enter meeting number 2630 805 6798 (no spaces between numbers). Then, click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: TuesdayMeeting. Next, please click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "Next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2630 805 6798 when prompted.

Written comments on Idaho Power's filing are being accepted until Oct. 25, 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](http://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-

22 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-24-22. 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-24-22.

Additional information on Idaho Power's filing is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7312](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7312).

## **Commission approves market purchase agreement between Idaho Power and Powerex Corp.**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Idaho Power that will allow it to buy electricity from Powerex Corp.

In its application to the commission, Idaho Power said a proposed market purchase agreement will allow it to buy 200 megawatts of firm capacity from June through September between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., seven days a week. Firm capacity is a guarantee of a level of supplied power committed to by Powerex as long as the purchase agreement is active.

The utility said its system would require approximately 236 megawatts of additional capacity by 2026 to meet system reliability requirements, and that the market purchase agreement will begin on June 1, 2026. The agreement has a five-year term that begins when the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line project starts to transmit power, and the agreement allows for a bridge term to buy and receive the power in the event that the Boardman to Hemingway line is not in service as of June 1, 2026.

The commission determined the market purchase agreement is fair, just and reasonable.

Additional information on Idaho Power's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7287](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7287).

## **Virtual public workshops will be held in early September on Idaho Power application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host an online workshop on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5 to share information on an application from Idaho Power to change the rates it charges customers.

The utility said its application focuses on recovering costs associated with infrastructure investments and labor expenses that were not included in the company's last rate case. If the commission approves the request, the average Idaho residential customer using 950 kilowatt hours per month would see a monthly bill increase of approximately \$7.48. The commission can approve, deny or modify the application.

Public utilities commission staff will host an online workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 4, to share information on the application and answer questions. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. MDT and end at 9:00 p.m., or until all customer questions have been answered, whichever comes first. To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2633 626 2353 when prompted.

To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com), and enter meeting number 2633 626 2353 (no spaces between numbers). Then, click on the green “Join” button. At the next window, please enter this password: IdahoPower. Next, please click on the green “Join Webinar” button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the “Next” button. Then click on the green “Join Webinar” button.

The second workshop will be held Thursday, Sept. 5. Commission staff will share information on the application and answer questions. It will begin at 12:00 p.m. MDT and end at 3:00 p.m., or until all customer questions have been answered, whichever comes first.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2630 764 8146 when prompted.

To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com), and enter meeting number 2630 764 8146 (no spaces between numbers). Then, click on the green “Join” button. At the next window, please enter this password: IdahoPower. Next, please click on the green “Join Webinar” button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the “Next” button. Then click on the green “Join Webinar” button.

Additional information on Idaho Power’s application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7268](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7268).

## **Commission is accepting written comments on utility’s application to include non-fuel operations and maintenance expenses in balancing account**

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](http://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.

Additional information on Idaho Power’s application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7293](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7293).

## **Commission issues decision on Idaho Power application to make changes to flex peak program**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision regarding an application from Idaho Power to make changes to its Schedule 82 – Flex Peak Program.

This voluntary demand response program offers industrial and large commercial customers an opportunity to reduce their electrical loads for short periods during the summer. The flex peak program reduces generation and transmission requirements to serve customers on days when the utility’s system’s capacity could be constrained. Industrial and commercial customers that participate are offered incentive payments.

Idaho Power submitted an application to modify certain payment structures, add a waiver provision covering participating customers whose load control device fails, revise the definition of “day of” load adjustment, establish an option to extend the four-hour notification limit for certain customers and add definitions for certain terms along with other minor updates related to the other proposed changes.

In early April, the commission approved the utility’s application with certain modifications. The commission directed Idaho Power to submit a compliance filing for Schedule 82 to include language for the advanced notification option as a pilot program as recommended by commission staff, additional language on the “day of load” adjustment and correcting the inadvertent change to Sheet No. 82-5 that allows participants to change load nominations during a program week.

In mid-April, Idaho Power submitted the required filing, and the commission approved it in May.

Additional information on the utility’s application and the commission’s approval is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7170](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7170).

## **Idaho Power files application seeking approval of energy sales agreement**

Idaho Power has filed an application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission asking for approval of an energy sales agreement with BP Hydro Associates.

If approved, the application would allow Idaho Power to buy energy from the Rock Creek II Hydro Project in Twin Falls. Idaho Power is also asking that the payments for buying the electricity be declared as prudently incurred expenses for ratemaking purposes. The energy sales agreement would provide for the sale of electricity for a 20-year term at non-levelized, non-seasonal hydro published avoided cost rates.

The commission can approve, deny or modify the application.

Written comments on the application are being accepted until April 18, 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](http://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-24-09 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. 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 mail are required to include their name, address and case number IPC-E-24-09.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7278](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7278).

## **Commission approves proposed Idaho Power asset transfer in Valley County**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a proposed land transfer from Idaho Power to a private party.

The utility asked for approval from the commission to transfer a 1.2-acre strip of a former Union Pacific Railroad line while retaining a powerline easement over the land. Idaho Power will sell the property for \$2,000. It said the transfer is intended to relieve the utility of maintenance costs related to the property without relinquishing the right to use it for a transmission corridor in the future.

In 1985, Idaho Power obtained approximately 90 acres of abandoned railroad line in Valley County from the Union Pacific Railroad, intending to use the land for a transmission corridor. Subsequently, Idaho Power has sold various parcels of the former railroad line to adjacent landowners while retaining easements authorizing the utility to build a transmission line in the future.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7204](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7204).

## **Commission issues order on Idaho Power on-site and self-generation tariffs**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission on Friday issued an order regarding the terms of Idaho Power's on-site and self-generation tariffs.

Idaho Power asked the commission to approve real-time net billing with an avoided cost-based financial credit rate for exported energy, a methodology for determining annual updates to the export credit rate, a modified project eligibility cap for commercial, industrial and irrigation

customers, related changes to the accounting for and transferability of excess net energy financial credits and updated tariff schedules necessary to administer the modified on-site generation offering.

In making its decision on Idaho Power's application, the commission recognized that the fundamental purpose of on-site generation is to offset a customer's own usage, that on-site generation should not create cost shifting between generators and non-generators, and that on-site generators should be given a fair value for their exported energy. In addition, the commission worked to accurately assign the appropriate share of fixed costs and unquantified benefits of on-site customer generation, and to provide a reasonable balance between the interests of customers with on-site generation and customers without it.

The commission approved Idaho Power's application to implement a real-time net billing export credit rate in accordance with the application as modified by the utility's revised proposal and the provisions of the commission's decision.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7033](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7033).

## **Written comments are being accepted on Idaho Power application to make changes to a flex peak program it offers**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments until late January on an Idaho Power application to make changes to its Schedule 82 – Flex Peak Program.

This voluntary demand response program offers industrial and large commercial customers an opportunity to reduce their electrical loads for short periods during the summer. The flex peak program reduces generation and transmission requirements to serve customers on days when the utility's system's capacity could be constrained. Industrial and commercial customers that participate are offered incentive payments.

Idaho Power submitted an application to modify certain payment structures, add a waiver provision covering participating customers whose load control device fails, revise the definition of "day of" load adjustment, establish an option to extend the four-hour notification limit for certain customers and add definitions for certain terms along with other minor updates related to the other proposed changes. The utility is asking that its application be effective on April 15, 2024.

The commission is accepting written comments until Jan. 25, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment using the commission's website, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://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-23-24 when filling out the form. Comments submitted using e-mail are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Idaho Power at the addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Idaho Power at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7170](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7170).

## **Commission approves settlement on proposed Idaho Power rate increases**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a settlement that will change rates for Idaho

Power customers beginning in January.

In reaching its decision, the commission determined the settlement attempted to reach a balance between customers' desires for a smaller rate increase and the utility's recovery of the costs it incurs to provide safe and reliable service in addition to an opportunity to earn a fair rate of return. The settlement, among other things, reduces Idaho Power's initial proposed base revenue increase of \$111,304,981 million to \$54.7 million. The commission also found that the settlement allows the utility to operate sustainably while reducing the effects of the rate increase on customers.

Numerous groups were involved in reaching the settlement. They include the City of Boise, Clean Energy Opportunities for Idaho, the Idaho Conservation League, the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association, Micron Technology, Idahohydro, Industrial Customers of Idaho Power, NW Energy Coalition and Walmart.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7022](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7022).

## **Telephonic public hearing scheduled on proposed asset transfer in Valley County**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will hold a telephonic public hearing in early January on a proposed land transfer from Idaho Power to a private party.

The utility is asking for approval to transfer a 1.2-acre strip of a former Union Pacific Railroad line while retaining a powerline easement over the land. Idaho Power is asking to sell the property for \$2,000. It said the transfer is intended to relieve the utility of maintenance costs related to the property without relinquishing the right to use it for a transmission corridor in the future.

The telephonic public hearing will be held Friday, Jan. 5, at 11:00 a.m. Those interested in submitting testimony can do so by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2634 051 1085 when prompted. It is encouraged to start calling in to the hearing at about 10:45 a.m.

The public utilities commission is accepting written comments on the proposed transfer until Jan. 18, 2024. Comments are required to be submitted through the commission's homepage or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. Comments can be submitted by visiting [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and clicking on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number IPC-E-23-31 when filling out the form. Comments filed by e-mail must also be submitted to the commission and Idaho Power at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments should be sent to the commission and the utility at these addresses:

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7204](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7204).

## **Comments are being accepted on Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments until mid- February on Idaho Power's integrated resource plan (IRP).

The IRP spells out how the utility will meet forecasted energy demand using both supply and demand side resources to ensure reliable service to customers.

The commission is accepting written comments on the IRP until Feb. 15, 2024. Comments are required

to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment using the commission's website, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link that is on the upper left side of the page. Please complete the form using case number IPC-E-23-23. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the commission secretary and the parties listed below. Those submitting comments using e-mail are required to provide their name, address, and case number IPC-E-23-23.

If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and the parties listed below. Those submitting comments are required to provide their name, address and case number IPC-E-23-23. Submitted comments constitute a public record, and are available for public and media inspection.

The commission does not approve or deny the IRP. It acknowledges the plan has been filed with the commission.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7146](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7146).

## **Riverside Electric Company**

### **Electric utility submits applications seeking approval to enter into service territory agreements**

The Riverside Electric Company has submitted three applications to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission asking for approval to enter into service territory agreements with Farmers Electric Company, the city of Rupert and East End Mutual Electric.

These electric companies offer service to customers in the Burley/Rupert area.

Service territory agreements are required to comply with the terms spelled out in the Electric Supplier Stabilization Act, which prohibits an electric supplier from serving another electric supplier's existing or former customers. In addition, Idaho code clarifies that the stabilization act is designed to promote harmony between electric suppliers, prohibit the pirating of utility customers, discourage duplication of electric facilities and stabilize service territories and consumers.

The commission can approve the applications, deny them or modify them.

Written comments are being accepted on all three applications until April 24, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use the case number for which comments are being submitted when filling out the form – C12-E-24-01, C12-E-24-02, or C12-E-24-03. The commenter should also include their name and address. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and the utilities listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and utilities at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and the case number they are commenting on – C12-E-24-01, C12-E-24-02 or C12-E-24-03.

## **Rocky Mountain Power**

### **Commission denies electric utility's appeal seeking recovery of costs associated with Washington state's climate commitment act**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied Rocky Mountain Power's request that the commission reconsider Order No. 36207, which disallowed the recovery of costs the utility incurred to comply with the Washington Climate Commitment Act ("WCCA").

Order No. 36207 allowed Rocky Mountain Power to recover \$60,093,960 of the approximately \$62.4 million it requested through the utility's Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism ("ECAM"). The ECAM allows Rocky Mountain Power to regularly adjust its price for electricity to reflect fluctuations in the cost of fuel or purchased power used to supply electricity.

The Washington Climate Commitment Act establishes requirements designed to reduce certain greenhouse gas emissions from generating plants in Washington state. Rocky Mountain Power operates a natural gas-fired generating facility in Chehalis, Washington, that exports a portion of the electricity it generates there to Idaho customers. The Chehalis facility releases carbon dioxide for which the utility must purchase and retire "allowances" through the Washington Department of Ecology. Each allowance allows for the emission of one metric ton of carbon dioxide. To ensure that certain legislative emissions standards are met, Washington's Department of Ecology will issue a decreasing number of those allowances in coming years.

In June of 2024, Rocky Mountain Power filed a petition for reconsideration of Order No. 36207. In its petition, Rocky Mountain Power argued the commission erred in disallowing recovery of its WCCA compliance costs by misinterpreting the 2020 PacifiCorp Inter-Jurisdictional Protocol in various ways, impermissibly separating the costs and benefits of the natural gas-fired generating facility in Chehalis, Washington, and discriminating against the utility for engaging in interstate commerce.

The commission, in its decision to deny the petition, said allowing recovery of costs incurred to comply with the WCCA from Idaho customers would violate the 2020 Protocol, which governs the allocation of costs and benefits of company resources (including company-owned generating facilities like the Chehalis facility) across the jurisdictions in which the utility operates.

If it was not allowed to recover WCCA compliance costs, Rocky Mountain Power asserted the commission should revise Order No. 36207 to exclude the costs and benefits of the Chehalis facility from Idaho customers' rates, which would effectively remove Chehalis from service to Idaho customers.

Additional information on the commission's decision is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292).

### **Telephonic public hearing scheduled for proposed asset transfer agreement between city of Idaho Falls and electric utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is holding a telephonic public hearing in November to take testimony on a proposed asset transfer agreement between the city of Idaho Falls and Rocky

Mountain Power.

If the agreement is approved by the commission, Rocky Mountain Power would transfer assets located in Idaho Falls to the city. The utility said the proposed agreement is in the public interest because it reduces service duplication while also compensating the utility.

The telephonic hearing will be Monday, Nov. 4, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. (MST). The hearing is being held to take testimony from members of the public and utility customers. Those wanting to submit testimony for the record can do so by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2630 112 3561 when prompted.

The commission is accepting written comments on the proposed transfer until Oct. 31, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number PAC-E-24-11 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 the other parties at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number PAC-E-24-11. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and the other parties at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number PAC-E-24-11.

Additional information on the proposed transfer is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7405](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7405).

## **Commission schedules virtual workshop to share information on electric utility's proposed rate increase**

Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff will hold a virtual, public workshop on Sept. 25 to share information on an application from Rocky Mountain Power to increase its rates.

The workshop will be Wednesday, Sept. 25, and will begin at 6:00 p.m. (MDT). Commission staff will provide an overview of Rocky Mountain Power's application, its proposed rate increase and the potential impact on customers. Commission staff will also be available to answer questions regarding the application.

Rocky Mountain Power is seeking commission approval to increase rates for the average residential customer by 17.9 percent, or about \$19.90 on Jan. 1, 2025. The utility also is seeking commission approval to increase rates by 5.3 percent, or about \$6.94 on Jan. 1, 2026. The commission can approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com) and enter meeting number 2634 899 5653 (no spaces between numbers). Then, click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: Workshop. Next, please click on the "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "Next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2634 899 5653 when prompted.

Additional information on Rocky Mountain Power’s application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7285](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7285).

## **Public comments are being accepted until mid-September on Rocky Mountain Power’s 2024-26 Idaho Wildfire Mitigation Plan**

The plan describes the utility’s efforts to mitigate wildfire risks and offers information on investments to build, maintain and operate electrical lines and equipment in a manner that will minimize wildfire risk. The plan also includes information on a baseline risk analysis and descriptions of inspection procedures, vegetation management practices, system hardening efforts, public safety power shutoff protocols, cost forecasts and other technical information relevant to wildfire risk mitigation efforts.

Rocky Mountain Power serves customers in eastern Idaho.

Comments are being accepted until Sept. 12, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number PAC-E-24-09 when filling out the form. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. Please use case number PAC-E-24-09. Commenters are required to include their name and address. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission secretary and Rocky Mountain Power at the addresses listed below. Commenters are required to include case number PAC-E- 24-09, their name and address.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7305](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7305).

## **Commission grants electric utility’s application for reconsideration**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has granted a petition for reconsideration filed by Rocky Mountain Power in a case involving costs incurred to comply with the State of Washington’s Climate Commitment Act (WCCA).

In a previous application to the commission, Rocky Mountain Power applied for approval of approximately \$62.4 million in Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism deferred costs. The commission approved the majority of the costs, with the exception of \$2.3 million. Rocky Mountain Power incurred this amount to comply with WCCA.

WCCA establishes requirements designed to reduce certain greenhouse gas emissions from generating plants in Washington State. Rocky Mountain Power operates a natural gas-fired generating facility in Chehalis, Washington, that exports a portion of the electricity it generates there to Idaho customers. The Chehalis facility releases carbon dioxide for which Rocky Mountain Power is required to purchase and retire “allowances” through the Washington Department of Ecology.

In a previous order (Order No. 36207) denying the \$2.3 million, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission disagreed with Rocky Mountain Power’s argument that the costs it incurred to comply with WCCA are like other taxes imposed on the utility. The commission said WCCA is more like a renewable portfolio standard as it is designed to reduce the use of fossil fuel. The commission also referenced a 2020 PacifiCorp Inter-Jurisdiction Allocation Protocol. Part of the protocol is designed to isolate state-

specific policy costs for recovery from customers where the policies are created. The commission determined that Idaho customers should not be required to pay for out-of-state environmental policies.

In its application for reconsideration, Rocky Mountain Power said the commission misinterpreted the allocation protocol in various ways; impermissibly separating the costs and benefits of the Chehalis facility and discriminating against the utility for engaging in interstate commerce. Rocky Mountain Power said the commission misinterpreted the 2020 Protocol and WCCA as requiring the reacquisition of Chehalis under a Washington State portfolio standard.

According to Rocky Mountain Power, it did not re-acquire Chehalis under a portfolio standard by obtaining climate commitment act allowances.

Rocky Mountain Power also said Order No. 36207 violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution by effectively discriminating against out-of-state economic interest. By denying recovery of costs like those the utility can recover in rates, the previous order treats power transmitted from Washington State differently than power produced in other states.

After considering the utility's arguments, the commission granted Rocky Mountain Power's application for reconsideration and set deadlines for parties to the case to file written comments and supporting evidence.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292).

## **Commission issues decision on electric utility's application to adjust customer rates under the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission on Friday issued a decision regarding the amount an eastern Idaho electric utility will be allowed to adjust its rates under the Energy Cost Adjustment Mechanism (ECAM).

Rocky Mountain Power asked for \$62.4 million in ECAM deferred costs and a 10.5 percent increase to Electric Service Schedule No. 94, Energy Cost Adjustment. The Commission approved a revised deferral amount of \$60,093,960. The \$2.3 million difference reflects the Commission's disallowing recovery of costs Rocky Mountain Power incurred to comply with the Washington Climate Commitment Act. If the original amount had been approved, the monthly bill of the utility's average residential customer using 783 kilowatt-hours of electricity would have increased by approximately \$7.39.

The ECAM allows Rocky Mountain Power to increase or decrease the rates it charges customers each year to reflect changes in the utility's power supply costs. The costs vary year by year, reflecting changes in Rocky Mountain Power's gas and coal costs, surplus power sales, power purchases and associated transmission costs. Each month, the utility tracks the difference between the actual net power costs it incurs to serve customers, and the embedded net power costs it collects from customers through base rates. Rocky Mountain Power defers the difference between the actual net power costs and base net power costs into a balancing account for later disposition at the end of the yearly deferral period. At that time, the ECAM allows Rocky Mountain Power to credit or collect the difference between actual net power costs and base net power costs through a decrease or increase in customer rates. The utility and its shareholders do not receive a financial return as a result of the

filing.

If Rocky Mountain Power's application to the Commission had been approved in full, prices for customer groups would have increased from 5.2 percent up to 13.5 percent. Under the approved \$60,093,960, a corresponding rate increase would result in a monthly bill increase of \$6.85 for the typical Idaho residential customer.

The Washington Climate Commitment Act establishes requirements designed to reduce certain greenhouse gas emissions from generating plants in Washington State. Rocky Mountain Power operates a natural gas-fired generating facility in Chehalis, Washington, that exports a portion of the electricity it generates there to Idaho customers. The Chehalis facility releases carbon dioxide for which the utility must purchase and retire "allowances" through the Washington Department of Ecology. Each allowance allows for the emission of one metric ton of carbon dioxide. To ensure that certain legislative emissions standards are met, Washington's Department of Ecology will issue a decreasing number of those allowances in coming years.

As part of its total requested ECAM deferred costs, Rocky Mountain Power asked for commission approval to recover approximately \$2.3 million from Idaho customers, which reflects the amount representing Idaho's jurisdictional share of the costs to purchase the remaining allowances necessary to operate the Chehalis facility and export electricity to customers outside of Washington.

In its order issued May 31, the Commission determined that allowing the utility to recover costs incurred to comply with the Washington Climate Commitment Act from Idaho customers would violate a 2020 Protocol that is designed to protect Idaho customers from costs arising from state-specific initiatives like the Washington Climate Commitment Act. The protocol also is designed to recover costs from customers in the states where those types of initiatives are created.

Additional information on Rocky Mountain Power's application and the commission's decision is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7292).

## **Commission denies electric utility's application regarding liability for non-economic damages**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied an application from Rocky Mountain Power that would limit the utility's liability for damages that are not tied to financial loss.

Rocky Mountain Power's application sought approval from the commission to update Electric Service Regulation No. 3 – Electric Service Agreements. The electric utility, which serves customers in eastern Idaho, said the regulation defined the utility's general rules and regulations for electric service.

In its application to the commission, Rocky Mountain Power proposed to update provisions regarding liability for non-economic damages. The updates would limit damages arising out of the utility's provision of electric service to actual damages, exclude atypical damages (including special, noneconomic, punitive, incidental, indirect or consequential), only apply prospectively and for actions arising out of the provision of electric service and would not apply where state law otherwise disallows the limitation. The utility said this provision strikes a balance between enabling actual damages when appropriate, and unreasonable treble damages.

After a review of Rocky Mountain Power's application and other information, the commission

determined it was not fair, just or reasonable to approve the application. It also determined limitations of liability regarding willful conduct or gross negligence are contrary to the public interest, unfair and unreasonable.

Rocky Mountain Power cited previous cases from other jurisdictions in support of its application. The commission found those citations unpersuasive because the utility relied on examples of limitations on liability for conduct outside of a company's control or instances in which a state legislature enacted statutory limitations on liability for natural disasters or other emergencies; factors that are not present here.

Additional information on Rocky Mountain Power's application and the commission's decision is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7184](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7184).

## **Public workshop, customer hearing scheduled for eastern Idaho electric utility's study of on-site generation**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has scheduled a workshop and customer hearing on an application from Rocky Mountain Power for approval of its study review phase of the costs and benefits of on-site customer generation.

On-site generation allows customers who have solar panels installed on their homes to return excess energy to an electric utility's grid.

Public utilities commission staff will host an online workshop on Tuesday, April 30 starting at 6:00 p.m. (MDT) and ending at 9:00 p.m. or after all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. The workshop will present an overview of Rocky Mountain Power's application and accompanying study. Staff also will be available to answer questions.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2631 825 3852 when prompted. To watch the workshop online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com) and enter meeting number 2631 825 3852 (no spaces between numbers). Next, please click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: April30Meeting. Next, click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address and then click on the "Next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

The commission also will hold a customer hearing on Monday, June 17, at the Idaho Falls Activity Center South Room, 1575 N. Skyline Drive, Idaho Falls, ID, 83402. At the customer hearing, the commission will take testimony for the record. The hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. (MDT) and end at 8:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing remotely can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2631 610 9071 when prompted.

Written comments on Rocky Mountain Power's application are being accepted until Thursday, June 13. 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number PAC-E-23-17 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 Rocky

Mountain Power at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Rocky Mountain Power at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number PAC-E-23-17.

Additional information on Rocky Mountain Power's application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7071](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7071).

## **Telephonic customer hearing scheduled on proposed asset transfer in eastern Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will hold a telephonic customer hearing in mid-January to take testimony on a proposed asset transfer between Rocky Mountain Power and the City of Idaho Falls.

Rocky Mountain Power is seeking approval to transfer electric facilities that are serving a customer to the city. The asset transfer would occur alongside the transfer of the customer's service for two vacant, meter less lots from Rocky Mountain Power to the city. The utility entered into a service allocation agreement with Idaho Falls to decrease service duplication and increase stability in their service areas. The allocation agreement permits the transfer of a customer's service between the parties if the utility acquiring the customer pays the other just compensation for lost revenue and distribution facilities used to serve the customer.

The telephonic hearing will be Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. It is intended to take testimony from customers and members of the public. Those interested in submitting testimony can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2633 606 6814 when prompted. It is encouraged to start calling in at 1:45 p.m.

The commission is accepting written comments on the proposed transfer until Jan. 25, 2024. Comments are required to be submitted through the commission's webpage or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To submit comments through the commission's homepage, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number PAC-E-23-25 when filling out the form. Comments filed by e-mail are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Rocky Mountain Power at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, utility and City of Idaho Falls at these addresses:

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7215](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7215).

# WATER

## Regulated Water Companies

Company	Customers	Nearest City / Town
Algoma Water System	27	Sagle
Aspen Creek Water Co., Inc.	72	Fish Haven
Atomic Water Works	41	Atomic City
Capitol Water Corporation	3,016	Boise
CDS Stoneridge Utilities LLC	366	Blanchard
Falls Water Co., Inc.	7,749	Ammon/Rigby
Gem State Water Company, LLC	1,043	Coeur d'Alene
Grouse Point Water Company, LLC	48	Kuna
Island Park Water Company, Inc.	343	Island Park
Kootenai Heights Water System, Inc.	11	Kootenai
Mayfield Springs Water Company, Inc.	101	Kuna
North Star Water, LLC	12	Caldwell
Picabo Water System LLC	42	Picabo
Rocky Mountain Utility Company, Inc.	124	Rigby
Schweitzer Basin Water LLC	471	Sandpoint
Schweitzer Water Company	566	Sandpoint
Sunbeam Water	21	American Falls
Syringa Water Company, Inc.	78	Coeur d'Alene
Teton Water and Sewer Company, LLC	319	Driggs
Valiant Idaho, LLC	148	Sandpoint
Veolia Water Idaho Inc.	106,412	Boise
VP, Incorporated	74	Sandpoint

# Water Press Releases from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2024

## Algoma Water System

### Commission approves northern Idaho water utility's application to increase rates

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application submitted by Algoma Water System to increase residential and commercial rates it charges to provide water service.

Residential customers will pay \$54.00 per month, and commercial customers will pay \$89.00 per month. Algoma provides water service to 22 residential and 5 commercial customers in the Sagle, Idaho, area. It last filed an application to change rates more than 15 years ago.

The utility said the additional revenue is needed to cover expenses and costs associated with maintaining and operating the system. The commission noted in its approval of the application that the change in monthly rates will allow Algoma to meet its obligation to provide safe and reliable service while providing the utility an opportunity to earn an 11 percent return rate on equity.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7027](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7027).

## Atomic Water Company

### Commission approves certificate for eastern Idaho water utility to provide water service to Atomic City

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a certificate of public convenience and necessity that will allow Atomic Water Company to provide water service in the unincorporated town of Atomic City, Idaho.

In addition to approving the certificate, the commission approved rates that will allow Atomic Water to collect an annual revenue requirement of \$17,096.

Atomic Water will charge residential customers a monthly rate of \$55.00 and commercial customers a monthly rate of \$123.00. Atomic Water provides service to about 31 customers in Atomic City. Prior to Atomic Water buying the water system, Bingham County operated it following the disincorporation of Atomic City.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6981](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6981).

## **Aspen Creek Water Co. Inc.**

### **Commission sets intervenor deadline in case regarding water utility's application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an Oct. 4 deadline for parties to intervene in an application from Aspen Creek Water Co., Inc. to increase its rates and non-recurring charges.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

Aspen Creek Water is a regulated water corporation that serves 73 unmetered customers in the Aspen Creek Estates and Aspen Creek Meadows subdivisions in Fish Haven, Idaho, in Bear Lake County. The utility is seeking commission approval to increase the rate for water service to \$134.00 each month. Aspen Creek Water also is seeking commission approval to charge between \$500 and \$7,505 for new connections, depending on the type of connection required. The commission may approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until Oct. 4, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to [secretary@puc.idaho.gov](mailto:secretary@puc.idaho.gov) to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on Aspen Creek Water's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7404](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7404).

## **Capitol Water**

### **Customer hearing scheduled on Boise water utility's application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a customer hearing on Nov. 1 to take testimony on an application from Capitol Water to increase the rates it charges to offer service to customers.

The utility provides water to residential, commercial and private fire protection customers in Boise. Rates were previously changed fifteen years ago, and the utility is seeking approval from the commission to increase monthly rates by instituting a service charge of \$5.12. That amount represents an increase of 24.61 percent for customer bills. Capitol Water said the increase will help recover expenses related to infrastructure maintenance, meter reading, customer service, administrative costs and other fixed operational costs that do not vary with usage levels.

The commission can approve, deny or modify the utility's application.

The customer hearing will be Friday, Nov. 1, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. (MDT) or after all testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, in Boise. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony for the record. Those interested in listening to the hearing can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2870 913 0823 when prompted.

The commission is accepting written comments on Capitol Water's application until Oct. 24, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 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, Capitol Water and the city of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the city of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279).

## **Commission will host customer hearing to take testimony on water district application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is hosting a customer hearing on Aug. 22 to take testimony on an application from Capitol Water to increase rates.

Capitol Water is seeking commission approval to increase customer rates by adding a monthly customer charge of \$5.12 for all residential, commercial and private fire protection services. If approved, the change would result in an increase in Capitol Water’s annual revenues of approximately \$174,068. The utility is asking that the change in rates and charges go into effect on April 1, 2024.

The customer hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time and end at 8:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise.

A workshop sharing information on the application was held on July 10.

Written comments on Capitol Water’s application are being accepted until Aug. 21, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 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, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below.

Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279).

## **Commission directs water corporation to follow approved rates when charging customers**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued an interlocutory order directing the Capitol Water Corporation to ensure its customers are properly charged the rates set for in its approved tariff.

An interlocutory order was issued because Capitol Water has an open rate case before the commission. The order directs Capitol Water to follow the rates set forth in its tariff while the general rate case proceeds.

While examining Capitol Water's financial records for the general rate case, commission staff discovered information that the company may have incorrectly billed metered customers who used more water than their monthly minimum allotment of water since 2022. Commission staff indicated the billing issue potentially affected up to approximately 277 customers in 2022, with some accounts being slightly underbilled or overbilled up to \$43 in a month depending on the size of the customer's meter. The investigation of the billing issue is on-going.

Idaho law prohibits public utilities from charging rates different than those previously approved. Based on information gathered by commission staff, the commission has reason to believe Capitol Water is not billing metered customers according to the approved tariff when they consume more than their minimum allotted amount of water in a month.

Capitol Water serves customers in Boise.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279).

## **Commission schedules virtual workshop, customer hearing on water corporation application to increase rates**

Staff with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a virtual public workshop in July to share information on an application from Capitol Water Corporation to increase the rates and charges for water service. A customer hearing will be held in August to accept testimony on the application.

Capitol Water is seeking commission approval to increase customer rates by adding a monthly customer charge of \$5.12 for all residential, commercial and private fire protection customers. If approved, the change would result in an increase in Capitol Water's annual revenues of approximately \$174,068.

The virtual public workshop will be Wednesday, July 10, at 6:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time. Staff with the commission will present an overview of Capitol Water's application, and will be available to answer questions. To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](https://idahogov.webex.com) and enter meeting number 2630 691 5396. Then click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: CapitolWater. Next, please click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2630 691 5396 when prompted.

The commission will host a customer hearing on Thursday, Aug. 22, to take verbal testimony for the record. The customer hearing will begin at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time and end at 8:00 p.m. or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The customer hearing will be

held at the Idaho Public Utilities Commission, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Building 8, Suite 201-A, Boise.

Written comments on Capitol Water’s application are being accepted until Aug. 21, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the “Case Comment Form” link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number CAP-W-24-01 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Capitol Water and the City of Boise at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number CAP-W-24-01.

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279).

## **Intervenor deadline set in water utility’s application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 12 deadline for parties to intervene in an application from Capitol Water Corporation to increase rates.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

The utility provides water to residential, commercial and private fire protection customers in Boise. Rates were previously changed fifteen years ago, and the utility is seeking approval from the commission to increase monthly rates by \$5.12. That amount represents an increase of 24.61 percent for customer bills. Capitol Water said the increase will help recover expenses related to infrastructure maintenance, meter reading, customer service, administrative costs and other fixed operational costs that do not vary with usage levels.

The commission can approve, deny or modify the utility’s application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until Friday, April 12, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to [secretary@puc.idaho.gov](mailto:secretary@puc.idaho.gov) to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on Capitol Water’s application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7279).

## **CDS Stoneridge Utilities**

### **Commission schedules customer hearings to take testimony on northern Idaho water utility proposed rate increase**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has scheduled two customer hearings in October to take testimony on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC to increase the rates and charges for providing water to customers.

The utility serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, the utility is asking for commission approval to increase rates for customers by an average of 261 percent.

Testimony submitted at the customer hearings will become part of the record.

The first customer hearing will be held Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, starting at 5:00 p.m. (PDT) and ending at 8:00

p.m. (PDT) or after all customer testimony has been taken, whichever comes first. The hearing will be held at the Blanchard Community Center, 685 Rusho Lane, Blanchard, Idaho, 83804. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing over the phone can do so by calling 1-415-655- 0001 and enter meeting number 2632 798 5543 when prompted.

The second hearing will be Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, starting at 10:00 a.m. (PDT) and ending at 1:00 p.m. (PDT) or after all customer testimony has been received, whichever comes first. The hearing will also be held at the Blanchard Community Center, 685 Rusho Lane, Blanchard, Idaho, 83804. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing over the phone can do so by calling 1-415-655- 0001 and enter meeting number 2634 555 0776 when prompted.

The commission is accepting written comments on the utility's application until Oct. 2, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWS-W-24-01 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, CDS Stoneridge and the other parties at the e-mail addresses listed below.

Commenters should include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, CDS Stoneridge and the other parties at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01.

Additional information on CDS Stoneridge's application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277).

## **Commission suspends rate case filed by northern Idaho water utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued an order on July 2 requiring a northern Idaho water utility to provide proof it has hired an attorney within 30 days or face possible dismissal of a general rate case the utility filed with the commission.

CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC was informed by the commission that its rate case has been suspended for an additional 60 days beyond a suspension spelled out in a previous order from the commission. A new effective date for any of the utility's rates and charges, if they were approved, would not take effect until Nov. 30, 2024.

Staff with the commission and parties involved in the case expressed concern that the utility could not

adequately participate in the case because CDS Stoneridge did not have legal representation, and was not providing discovery responses in a timely manner. The order issued on July 2 requires the utility to file a notice of legal representation with the commission within 30 days of the July 2 date, and to provide discovery responses to parties in the case.

The case has not been dismissed, and the suspension gives the utility additional time to respond to discovery requests that were either unanswered or inadequately answered. In addition to suspending the case, comment deadlines set in a previous order have been vacated.

CDS Stoneridge serves customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. It is asking for commission approval to increase rates by 261 percent for all classes of customers, a monthly user increase fee for all current and future customers within the utility's service territory and a disconnect/reconnect fee increase for customers who choose to have their water turned off and turned back on at a later date.

Additional information on the order issued Tuesday and the utility's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277).

## **Public workshops scheduled on northern Idaho water utility application to increase rates**

Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff will host two public workshops on June 4 to share information on an application from a northern Idaho water utility to increase the rates and charges for water service.

CDS Stoneridge Utilities, LLC is seeking approval from the commission to increase rates. The utility serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, the utility is asking for commission approval to increase rates for customers by an average of 261 percent.

The workshops will be held on Tuesday, June 4, at the Blanchard Community Center, 684 Rusho Lane, in Blanchard, Idaho. The first workshop will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. The second workshop also will be held at the community center from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time or until all questions have been answered, whichever comes first. At the workshops, commission staff will present an overview of CDS Stoneridge's application and answer questions.

For those unable to attend either workshop, a video presentation of it will be posted to the commission's homepage at [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) in the "News Updates" section the week of June 3, 2024.

The commission is accepting written comments on the utility's application until Aug. 7, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWS-W-24-01 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 CDS Stoneridge at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the

commission and CDS at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWS-W-24-01.

Additional information on CDS Stoneridge's application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277).

## **Commission issues decision on water utility's application to increase hookup fees for new customers in northern Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities that asked to increase the hookup fees for new customers that were joining the utility's system.

CDS Stoneridge asked for approval to increase the non-refundable hookup charge for new connections under its Tariff No. 3, Sheet 3. The utility said it no longer had in-house contractors that were able to perform the connections for new homes. CDS Stoneridge reviewed costs it incurred from outside contractors for new connections from 2021 to 2023 and determined it needed an emergency increase to hookup charges.

The utility provided the commission with an estimate of \$9,734.75 prepared by an engineering firm for a full install. It also said new homes in its service area now typically request 1-inch service meters instead of the  $\frac{3}{4}$ - inch that had previously been requested.

In its decision issued May 20, the commission found that hookup fees recommended by commission staff were reasonable based on the record before the commission. CDS Stoneridge will be allowed to increase what is charged for a complete installation, what is charged for a tap main and installation of a service line to curb stop only and what it is charged for the installation of a meter and turning water on. The fees recommended by commission staff and approved by the commission were lower than what CDS Stoneridge asked for in its application to do those tasks.

The commission also ordered that customers will be allowed to seek bids from a pre-approved list of third-party contractors. CDS Stoneridge will be required to inspect work a third-party contractor does before backfilling excavations.

The commission also ordered CDS Stoneridge to report the actual cost, including the itemization of such cost, charged for any connection performed within the next six months to ensure there is a better understanding of the true costs associated with a connection charge based on varying installation requirements or categories for connections.

CDS serves customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208).

## **Intervention deadline set in water utility's application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 3 intervention deadline for an application submitted by CDS Stoneridge Utilities to increase the rates it charges for water service.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

CDS Stoneridge serves approximately 384 residential and commercial customers in the Blanchard, Idaho, area. The utility said it has invested more than \$900,000 in its system since 2018. To recover the investment, it is asking for commission approval to increase monthly user fees, increase the disconnection and reconnection fees and increase other non-recurring fees. The amount of the increase depends on the meter size customers have and the amount of water they use. The increase would apply to residential customers in the Stoneridge and Happy Valley subdivisions, commercial customers at SR Resort/Timeshare and MCV & Golf Course, and irrigation customers.

The commission can approve, modify or deny the application.

Those interested in becoming a party to the case and participate in proceedings have until April 3, 2024 to do so. An e-mail can be sent to [secretary@puc.idaho.gov](mailto:secretary@puc.idaho.gov) to request intervenor status. If computer access is not available, a request can be mailed to:

Additional information on the utility's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7277).

## **Public comment period opens on northern Idaho water utility's application to increase hook-up fees**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting comments on an application from CDS Stoneridge Utilities to increase hook-up fees for new customers.

The utility, which serves customers in Bonner County, said it no longer had in-house contractors that were able to perform hook-ups for new customers. After reviewing its costs that included third-party bids for new connections from 2021 to 2023, it determined certain increases were needed.

CDS also said new homes in the area typically request 1-inch service meters instead of the 3/4-inch meter that had been used.

Written comments are being accepted until Feb. 15, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov). Click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page and complete it using case number SWS-W-23-02. If filing by e-mail, comments are required to be submitted to the commission secretary and CDS at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and CDS at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7208).

## **Dry Creek Water Company**

### **Commission is accepting written comments on proposed settlement involving water utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments until Friday, October 18, 2024, on a proposed settlement between commission staff and Dry Creek Water Company, LLC.

Previously, commission staff conducted an investigation to determine if Dry Creek Water is operating as a public utility subject to commission regulation. In September, staff and the company filed a joint motion to approve a proposed settlement. It directs Dry Creek Water to amend its corporate papers to enable it to begin directly serving and individually billing homeowners and apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

The commission can approve the settlement, reject it or add additional conditions under which a settlement will be approved.

The commission is accepting written comments on the proposed settlement until Friday, October 18. 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number DRY-W-24-01 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 Dry Creek Water at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number DRY-W-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Dry Creek Water at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number DRY-W- 24-01.

Additional information on the proposed settlement is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309).

## **Commission extends deadline to submit comments and information in water utility case**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is giving a water utility additional time to submit comments and other information as part of an investigation to determine if the utility should be regulated by the commission.

Dry Creek Water Company, located northwest of Boise, provides water to the Dry Creek Ranch Homeowners Association which then distributes water to homes that have been built at Dry Creek Ranch. As of December of 2023, the utility was serving 381 connections. Dry Creek Water is not currently regulated by the commission, and has not been granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Commission staff received informal complaints regarding how the utility is operating, and determined a formal investigation was needed to determine if Dry Creek Water is operating as a public utility that should be regulated by the commission.

Deadlines in June, July and August have been extended to give Dry Creek Water additional time to work with commission staff and submit information as part of the investigation. In an order issued by the commission on Tuesday, it agreed to vacate an Aug. 16, 2024, reply comment deadline and grant the utility's request for an additional 60 days from a prior reply comment deadline of July 24, 2024, to file reply comments.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7309).

## **Falls Water Co.**

### **Commission approves water utility's application to install backup well**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Falls Water Co., Inc. to install a backup well to serve customers within the utility's recently acquired Morning View Water Co. system.

After acquiring Morning View's system and reviewing it, Falls Water said a new backup well was needed to ensure sufficient water supply if a primary well failed.

The commission approved the utility's application after

reviewing it. Additional information is available at

[puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255).

### **Written comments are being accepted on project for backup well and infrastructure**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting comments until late April on an application from Falls Water to build a backup well in eastern Idaho.

Falls Water bought the Morning View Water Company, and identified the need for a backup well after completing a facility plan. Falls Water said the backup well is needed to ensure sufficient water supply if the primary well were to fail. The backup well and other infrastructure is estimated to cost \$300,000 to \$350,000.

Written comments are being accepted until April 24, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment through the commission's website, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number FLS-W-24-01 when filling out the form. Comments submitted through e-mail are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Falls Water at the e-mail addresses below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Falls Water at these addresses:

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7255).

### **Commission approves proposed settlement that will change rates for water utility customers**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved a settlement that will change rates for Falls Water Co. customers in eastern Idaho.

Before the settlement was approved, Falls Water Co. had initially asked for a 47.3 percent increase in revenue collected in varying amounts from customers that are served in the Falls Water, Morning View, and Taylor Mountain water systems. Pursuant to the terms of the settlement that were approved by the Commission, Falls Water's rates will increase revenue collected by 28.8 percent, though the amounts will be different depending on the specific water system.

In addition to the 28.8 percent increase in revenue, the settlement calls for the basic charges for the Taylor Mountain and Falls Water systems to be consolidated based on meter size, and basic charges for the Morning View water system will be separated by acre size regardless of meter size. Taylor Mountain and Falls Water basic charges each increased 20 percent from Falls Water current basic charges and Morning View's basic charges reduced \$5 for each lot size. The approved settlement also moves rates toward consolidation for the three water systems.

Each system will have the same volumetric rates of \$0.64 and \$1.439 per 1,000 gallons for second and third block allotted usage, respectively. All systems will share a three-block tier structure.

The settlement also allows customers to participate in an equal pay plan option that will allow customers to flatten their monthly bills by using an estimate of annual consumption spread over the following year to create leveled payments.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7047](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7047).

## **Farko**

### **Commission issues decision on application making changes to water utilities' certificates of public convenience and necessity**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision regarding an application changing two certificates of public convenience and necessity after one water utility purchased another.

In January of 2024, Farko Water System Inc. filed an application with the commission stating that the Ponderosa Terrace Estates Water System, Inc. was sold to Farko in 2016. The application requested a transfer of Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate of public convenience and necessity to Farko, and it requested Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate be cancelled.

The application also asked that the commission recognize that Farko is operating the system as a not-for-profit organization.

In July of 2024, the commission issued a final order granting Farko's request to cancel Ponderosa Terrace Estates' certificate, which allowed Farko to operate outside of the commission's jurisdiction, subject to certain conditions. The commission ordered Farko to submit a compliance filing with a copy of non-profit bylaws signed by a newly created board of directors for Farko, and a signed copy of the minutes of the meeting in which the board was elected.

Idaho code provides three exceptions to the commission's regulatory authority over corporations. The commission does not regulate mutual nonprofits, cooperative corporations or any other public utility organized and operated for service at cost and not for profit. Pursuant to Idaho code, Farko demonstrated that the board is organized and operated for service at cost and not for profit. Because those terms were met, Ponderosa Terrace Estates' was cancelled and the board will operate in accordance with its bylaws.

If the board or its successors decided to operate as a for-profit entity in the future, it will be required to apply to the commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7247](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7247).

## **Kootenai Heights Water System**

### **Commission approves northern Idaho water utility's application to increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Kootenai Heights Water System to increase the rates it charges to provide water service.

The flat rate residential customers pay will increase from \$38.50 per month to \$57.65 per month. Kootenai Heights Water said the increase is needed to cover expenses that include power, water testing, maintenance and other expenses required to maintain and operate the water system. The utility's last rate increase was in 2007.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7017](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7017).

## **Schweitzer Water Company**

### **Schweitzer Water Company submits application to acquire assets and service area of Resort Water Co.**

Schweitzer Water Company has submitted an application to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to acquire the Resort Water Co. Inc.'s assets and service area.

Resort Water Co. owns two water supply and distribution systems that serve more than 550 customers in Bonner County. Schweizer serves customers in and around the Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Boundary County.

In its application to the commission, Schweitzer Water said the proposed acquisition would provide access to capital that is not currently available to Resort Water via Schweitzer Water's parent company, Alterra. The utility also said in its application that it would continue to maintain the current expertise in operating a regulated water utility by retaining the same key employees, procedures and licensed officials of Resort Water.

The commission can approve, deny or modify Schweitzer Water's application.

Written comments on the application are being accepted until April 11, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number SWC-W-23-01 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Schweitzer Water at the e-mail addresses listed below and include the commenter's name, address and case number SWC-W-23-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Schweitzer Water at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and case number SWC-W-23-01. Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7230](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7230).

## **Sunbeam Water**

### **Commission waives financial penalties for eastern Idaho water utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has agreed to waive financial penalties imposed on Sunbeam Water for failure to attend a hearing and failure to comply with timely reporting of its operating revenue and annual reports.

In February of 2023, the commission imposed the financial penalties on Sunbeam of \$4,000 for those items. Since then, Sunbeam has worked to cooperate with commission staff to better understand requirements and to file information within deadlines. The order the commission issued on Thursday waiving the penalties also noted the utility has been operating at a documented average net loss of more than \$5,000 per year, and has communicated with commission staff regarding suggestions for the system.

Sunbeam also cooperated with staff to coordinate an on-site visit of the utility and hold a public workshop. Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6952](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/6952).

## **Syringa Water, Inc.**

### **Commission issues order directing staff to investigate water utility's rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission issued an order on Sept. 6 directing its staff to investigate if Syringa Water Inc.'s rates are fair, just and reasonable.

The commission had previously received comments from customers expressing concern about recent rate increases. The investigation into rates will include commission staff submitting discovery questions to the water utility, and making a recommendation to the commission regarding Syringa Water's rates.

The utility serves 78 customers along the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Kootenai County. Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7400](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7400).

Commission will regulate northern Idaho water utility after approving its application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will regulate a northern Idaho water utility after approving an application from the utility asking for a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

Syringa Water Inc. serves 78 customers along the northern part of Lake Coeur d'Alene in Kootenai County. Its customers are currently charged volumetric rates.

Commission staff who reviewed Syringa Water's application believed the utility was operating as a public utility, and should be issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The utility is organized as an Idaho corporation and serves customers who do not control Syringa Water's operations or own the water system. Staff also noted the utility is not operating to provide water service to customers at cost, and therefore believed the utility is operating the water system for

compensation.

As part of the commission's granting the certificate, Syringa Water will be required to address certain operational deficiencies. The utility had yet to replace a flow meter on a filter bay of the water system that was identified as malfunctioning in a 2019 Idaho Department of Environmental Quality sanitary survey. Syringa said it has purchased a new flow meter and will replace the malfunctioning one after the high-demand season ends in November of 2024.

Commission staff noted that insufficient transfer pump capacity and insufficient fire flow storage threaten the current and future reliability of the utility's system. The system has a single transfer pump that if fails, customers may not receive water. The utility also needs a water storage capacity of 173,925 gallons to meet both its maximum daily demand and fire flow as required by Idaho code. Currently, Syringa Water has 100,000 gallons of available capacity, a deficiency of 73,925 gallons. According to the Kootenai County 2018 Fire Code, the utility needs 180,000 gallons of storage capacity or 1,500 gallons per minute at 20 pounds per square inch of system pressure.

In addition to addressing the items above, Syringa Water was directed by the commission to provide a tariff, a billing statement, an initial disconnection notice, a final disconnection notice, a notice of procedure for reconnection, a summary of rules and other information. Commission staff was directed to open a separate docket to evaluate whether the rates contained in the tariff Syringa Water subsequently provides are fair, just, and reasonable.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7294](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7294).

## **Valiant Idaho, Inc.**

### **Commission determines northern Idaho water utility should be regulated**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has determined a northern Idaho water utility is operating as a public utility and has directed it to work with commission staff to complete a process to become regulated.

Valiant Idaho, Inc. owns and operates a water supply and distribution system that serves customers in a development and golf club called the Idaho Club in the Bonner County, Idaho, area. Valiant Idaho obtained the water system assets, an undeveloped portion of the Idaho Club and land comprising the golf course in a 2016 sheriff sale.

Commission staff believed Valiant Idaho should be regulated under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and recommended the commission issue it a certificate of public convenience and necessity. In an order issued Sept. 6, Valiant Idaho was issued the certificate.

The determination that Valiant Idaho was operating as a public utility and the issuance of the certificate occurred after the commission's review of the record and the nature and manner of control exercised by Valiant Idaho in the operation and management of the water system. The commission found it reasonable to assert formal regulatory jurisdiction by finding that Valiant Idaho operates its water system as a public utility.

Accordingly, the commission has jurisdiction over Valiant Idaho.

In addition to issuing the certificate of public convenience and necessity, the order directed Valiant Idaho to submit a full and accurate legal description of the company's service territory to ensure that Valiant Idaho does not overlap with that of another public utility, adopt the commission's Utility Customer Relations Rules and Utility Customer Information Rules. The order also directed Valiant Idaho to use an accounting system consistent with information required by the commission's annual report for small water companies. These companies submit their annual reports to the commission.

Valiant Idaho also is directed to submit information required under the Utility Customer Relations Rules for commission review and approval. This information includes a tariff, various customer notices and an annual rules summary.

The order also directs commission staff to open a separate docket to evaluate whether Valiant Idaho's rates are fair, just and reasonable.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301).

## **Commission sets written comment deadline regarding status of northern Idaho water utilities**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set a written comments deadline in proceedings to determine if two water utilities are operating as public utilities and if steps should be taken by the companies to comply with Idaho law.

Valiant Idaho, Inc. and TIC Utilities, LLC have been asked to provide information to commission staff that would help staff make a recommendation regarding their status, a requirement for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and any other recommendations regarding the adequacy of service and rate setting.

Valiant Idaho and TIC Utilities own and operate a water supply and distribution system that serves customers in a development and golf club in the Bonner County, Idaho, area.

The commission is accepting written comments on the work being done until July 18, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number GNR-W-24-01 when filling out the form. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. Please use case number GNR-W-24-01.

Commenters are required to include their name and address. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission secretary and Valiant Idaho/TIC Utilities at the addresses listed below. Commenters are required to include case number GNR-W-24-01, their name and address.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7301).

## **Veolia Water Idaho**

### **Commission approves water utility's application to assume ownership and maintenance of fire hydrants**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Veolia Water Idaho to assume ownership and management of fire hydrants that belong to the Whitney Fire Protection District.

Veolia Water will take ownership of the fire hydrants in Boise and Ada County over a five-year period, with 1/5 of the fire hydrants transferred to Veolia each year. After the transfer is completed, Veolia Water will have ownership and maintenance responsibilities over all of the fire hydrants in its service territory. Veolia Water said in its application that it has the financial resources to maintain the fire hydrants and will follow fire flow and fire code requirements.

The fire protection district will not be charging Veolia Water to assume ownership of the hydrants. It is anticipated that maintenance and repair costs will decrease as fire hydrants are replaced. Veolia Water can submit an application to the commission in the future to recover the costs of maintaining hydrants. The approval of the application also will allow Veolia Water to install new hydrants in areas where they are spaced too far apart to meet current fire code requirements.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7186](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7186).

### **Veolia Water Idaho and City of Eagle apply to transfer service for some customers to city**

The City of Eagle and Veolia Water Idaho have applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to transfer utility service and some assets that serve the Eagle Skate Park, a subdivision and a church from Veolia Water to the city.

The skate park is part of the Eagle Sports Complex. The city and Veolia Water said that due to the proximity of city-owned water infrastructure, both agreed it is in the public interest that city-owned facilities within the sports complex be served by the city's municipal water system. In addition, the Bighorn Subdivision, a church and two connections from a 12" mainline will be transferred from Veolia Water to the city if the application is approved.

The commission is accepting written comments on the application until April 10, 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](https://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number VEO-W-23-05 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary, Veolia and the city at the e-mail addresses listed below and include the commenter's name, address and case number VEO-W-23-05. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Veolia Water and the city at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and case number VEO-W-23-05.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7234](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7234).

## **VP Incorporated**

### **Commission issues certificate to northern Idaho water utility**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from VP Inc. to grant it a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide water services within the Hidden Lakes subdivision near Sandpoint.

VP Inc. serves 74 customers in the subdivision in Bonner County, Idaho. Before receiving the certificate, the utility was charging three different monthly flat rates of \$35, \$40 or \$45. Which rate the lot owner was charged was determined when a lot was purchased or connected to the water system. In its application, the water utility proposed a monthly flat rate of \$55 for all customers.

After reviewing its application, the commission approved a flat monthly rate of \$75.43 for each customer receiving water service and not allowing a flat rate for non-flowing customers. The commission determined only those currently receiving services from the water system should pay for its operation.

The commission also approved allowing VP Inc. to charge a reconnection fee of \$50, a 1 percent monthly late payment charge, and a \$20 returned check charge.

Additional information on the commission's decision is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241).

### **Commission schedules customer hearing to take testimony on application from water utility to provide service in northern Idaho, increase rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a customer hearing on June 24 to take testimony on an application from VP Inc. to provide water service in the Sandpoint, Idaho, area and increase rates.

The commission directed VP Inc. to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity after finding it was a water corporation subject to the commission's regulation as a public utility. VP Inc. is also asking for approval from the commission to increase its rates and charges for water service to \$55.00 per month.

The commission will hold a customer hearing on Monday, June 24, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time to take testimony for the record from customers and the public. The hearing will be held at the Sandpoint Community Hall, 204 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., in Sandpoint. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those interested in listening to the hearing without attending in-person can call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2632 107 9402 when prompted.

Additional information on VP Inc.'s application is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241).

### **Commission schedules virtual workshop on water utility's application to receive certificate of public convenience and necessity**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission will host a virtual workshop in early June on an application from VP Inc. to receive a certificate of public convenience and necessity.

VP Inc. provides water service to customers in northern Idaho. The commission requested the utility to apply for the certificate after determining it is a water corporation subject to the commission's regulation as a public utility. Utilities are required to apply for a certificate of public convenience and necessity when making a change to their operations.

The virtual workshop will be held Thursday, June 6, at 6:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. At the workshop, commission staff will present an overview of VP Inc.'s application for the certificate and a proposed rate increase the utility is asking for. Staff will also answer questions.

To participate online, please visit [idahogov.webex.com](http://idahogov.webex.com) and enter meeting number 2631 508 6192. Then click on the green "Join" button. At the next window, please enter this password: June6Workshop. Next, please click on the green "Join Webinar" button. At the next window, please enter your name and e-mail address, and then click on the "Next" button. Then click on the green "Join Webinar" button.

To participate over the phone, please call 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2631 508 6192 when prompted.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241).

## **Intervention deadline set for water utility's application to change rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set an April 2 intervention deadline for an application submitted by VP Inc. to increase the rates to provide water service to its customers.

Intervenors are allowed to participate in the proceedings for the application.

VP Inc. serves 74 residential customers near Sandpoint in Bonner County. It is asking for commission approval to increase rates. VP currently charges customers \$35, \$40 or \$45 monthly to provide service depending on the customer's initial connection date. It is proposing a rate increase to \$55 per month for all customers, and said the increase is necessary to cover ongoing expenses and allow for a 12 percent rate of return.

The commission may approve, deny or modify VP's application.

Additional information on VP's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7241).

# TELECOMMUNICATIONS

## Regulated Telecommunication Companies

<b>Company</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Albion Telephone Company</b>	Albion
<b>Cambridge Telephone Company</b>	Cambridge
<b>CenturyLink*</b>	Boise
<b>CenturyTel of Idaho, Inc.*</b>	Salt Lake City, UT
<b>CenturyTel of the Gem State, Inc.</b>	Salt Lake City, UT
<b>Ziply Fiber of Idaho, LLC*</b>	Beaverton, OR
<b>Columbine Telephone Company, Inc. dba Silver Star Communications</b>	Freedom, WY
<b>Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.</b>	Rockland
<b>Fremont Telcom Co.</b>	Missoula, MT
<b>Ziply Fiber Northwest, LLC*</b>	Beaverton, OR
<b>Inland Telephone Company</b>	Roslyn, WA
<b>Midvale Telephone Company</b>	Midvale
<b>Oregon-Idaho Utilities</b>	Nampa
<b>Pine Telephone System, Inc.</b>	Halfway, OR
<b>Potlach Telephone Company*</b>	Kendrick
<b>Rural Telephone Company</b>	Glenns Ferry
* These companies are no longer rate regulated; however, they are still regulated for customer service.	

# Telecommunications Press Releases from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2024

## AT&T

### **Commission issues decision on application from telecommunications companies regarding certificate of public convenience and necessity that reflects name change, merger**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has issued a decision regarding an application from AT&T Corp. and AT&T Enterprises, Inc. that asked for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a newly named company that would continue to offer local telecommunication exchange services in Idaho.

Utilities in Idaho are required to apply to the commission for the certificates when they intend to make changes to business operations.

After an internal restructuring, AT&T Enterprises, Inc. will undergo a name change to AT&T Enterprises, LLC. The companies asked that Enterprises, LLC.'s name be reflected on the proposed certificate of public convenience and necessity, which would cover the same service territory as that on a certificate of public convenience and necessity previously granted to AT&T Corp.

The two companies also asked that should the public utilities commission decide otherwise, AT&T Enterprises, Inc. be granted a new certificate with conditional approval of an amendment to the certificate for a name change to AT&T Enterprises, LLC. after adequate documentation regarding the name change is given to the commission.

The internal restructuring involves AT&T Corp. merging with AT&T Enterprises, Inc. in early May, after which AT&T Corp. would cease to exist. In addition, AT&T Enterprises, Inc. would change its name to AT&T Enterprises, LLC.

The companies said customer rates and service would not change after the restructuring.

The commission decided to grant a new certificate to AT&T Enterprises, Inc. because at the time of the application AT&T Enterprises, LLC. does not legally exist. In its decision issued May 1, the commission said if the companies want to change the name on the new certificate to AT&T Enterprises, LLC., the companies are required to submit a filing to the commission requesting the change within 60 days of May 1. The commission said the filing would be required to include documents related to the new company's certificate of authority to do business in Idaho as a foreign corporation and any other relevant documentation from the Idaho Secretary of State that would

certify the new company's authorization to conduct business in Idaho.

The commission also required AT&T Enterprises, Inc. to provide information regarding the number of basic local exchange customers it has and the services being offered, among other items, as part of the approval of its certificate.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7275](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7275).

## **ATC Communications**

### **Commission approves telecommunication company's application regarding broadband equipment**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from ATC Communications that asked the commission to confirm that equipment it installed in 2023 is qualified broadband equipment under Idaho code.

In its application, ATC said its net investment in qualifying broadband equipment in 2023 was \$3,064,718.54. ATC also said 99 percent of its Idaho subscribers have access to the broadband network. ATC indicated its transmission rates from 25 megabits per second to 1 gigabit per second meet the required rates of 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber.

Idaho code allows a taxpayer to receive an income tax credit for having installed the equipment during a calendar year. Before the taxpayer is eligible for the tax credit, the taxpayer is required to apply to the commission for an order confirming the installed equipment is qualified broadband equipment as defined in Idaho code. The code defines qualified broadband equipment as capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and at least 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber and is primarily used to provide services in Idaho to public subscribers.

Commission staff reviewed ATC's application and determined the equipment is qualified broadband equipment eligible for the tax credit. ATC's application and the commission's order approving it are forwarded to the Idaho State Tax Commission.

The company is based in Albion, Idaho, and offers residential and business services in Idaho and Utah. Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7251](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7251).

## **CenturyLink**

### **Commission denies telecom company's application seeking approval to have equipment designated as qualified broadband equipment**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied an application from CenturyLink requesting that equipment it installed in 2022 be designated as qualified broadband equipment.

Idaho code allows a taxpayer to receive an income tax credit for having installed qualified broadband equipment during a calendar year. Before the taxpayer is eligible for the credit, the taxpayer is required to apply to the commission for an order confirming the equipment is qualified broadband equipment as defined in Idaho statute. The statute defines the equipment as being capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and at least 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber.

In its application to the commission, CenturyLink said its net investment in qualifying broadband equipment in 2022 was \$23,348,473. It indicated its lowest transmission rates were 500,000 bits per second and 250,000 bits per second for downloads and uploads, respectively.

The commission denied CenturyLink's application after reviewing it and determining it did not properly describe the broadband equipment in question. The company also did not respond to audit requests from commission staff for information on the equipment that would have included the brand, model number and manufacturer.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7232](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7232).

## **Centurytel of the Gem State, Gold Star Communications, LLC**

### **Commission approves application seeking commercial mobile radio services agreement between telecom companies**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application that will allow CenturyTel of the Gem State and Gold Star Communications, LLC to enter into a commercial mobile radio services agreement.

The agreement establishes the terms, conditions, and pricing pertaining to the interconnection of the networks of the signees. It creates a two-way traffic so that customers of each signee can place and receive calls that originate from or terminate to a commercial mobile radio carrier which originate on one part of the network and terminate on the other network.

The Federal Telecommunications Act allows incumbent local exchange carriers to voluntarily negotiate with a requesting telecommunications carrier for interconnection, services or network support. The act requires that interconnection agreements, including any amendments to them, must be submitted to the commission for approval. The commission's review is limited, and it may reject an agreement adopted by the parties only if it finds that the agreement discriminates against a telecommunications carrier that is not a party to the agreement or the implementation of the agreement is not consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity.

In approving the agreement, the commission found those were not issues.

Additional information is available at:

[puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7327](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7327).

## **CTC Telecom, Inc.**

### **Commission approves amended certificate that reflects telecom utility changes**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from a telecom utility that reflects the sale of equipment and changes to the services it offers customers.

CTC Telecom, Inc. applied to the commission to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to relinquish its right to provide voice and broadband services via fiber in Ada County. CTC Telecom told the commission it sold telecommunications equipment and facilities that were used to provide those services in Ada County. Millennium Networks, LLC bought the equipment and facilities, and is now the service provider.

CTC Telecom said it will continue to provide fixed wireless services in Ada County under the name “Wildness Wireless” and does not seek removal of the right to provide that service. The commission approved the utility’s application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7057](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7057).

## **Direct Communications Rockland, Inc.**

### **Commission approves telecommunications company’s application asking that equipment be recognized as broadband equipment**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Direct Communications Rockland, Inc. that designates equipment it installed in 2023 is qualified broadband equipment.

Idaho code allows a taxpayer to receive an income tax credit for having installed qualified broadband equipment during a calendar year. Before the taxpayer is eligible for the tax credit, it must apply to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for an order confirming the equipment is qualified broadband equipment as defined in the statute.

The statute states that the equipment is capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and at least 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber, and is primarily used to provide services in Idaho to public subscribers. In the case of a telecommunications carrier, qualifying equipment shall be necessary to the provision of broadband service and shall also be an integral part of a broadband network.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7317](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7317).

## **Fatbeam, LLC**

### **Commission approves application giving telecom company income tax credit**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application allowing Fatbeam, LLC to receive

an income tax credit for qualified broadband equipment.

Fatbeam said broadband services it offers to its customers are associated with fiber optic wide area network and wireless services, and that the company operates a 100 gigabit backbone network that feeds the broadband equipment throughout Idaho. Fatbeam also said customers are served via direct access fiber, fiber to the home, fixed microwave or broadband radio setups.

In 2001, the Legislature passed a bill allowing companies to receive income tax credit for the installation of qualifying broadband equipment in the state during a calendar year. Qualified broadband equipment is defined as those network facilities capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and at least 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber. If the equipment is installed by a telecommunications carrier, it must also be necessary to the provision of broadband services and an integral part of a broadband network.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7359](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7359).

### **Filer Mutual Telephone Company**

## **Commission approves telecommunications company's application asking that equipment be recognized as qualified broadband equipment**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Filer Mutual Telephone Company that designates equipment it installed in 2023 is qualified broadband equipment.

Idaho code allows a taxpayer to receive an income tax credit for having installed qualified broadband equipment during a calendar year. Before the taxpayer is eligible for the tax credit, it must apply to the public utilities commission for an order confirming the equipment is qualified broadband equipment as defined in the statute.

The statute states that the equipment is capable of transmitting signals at a rate of at least 200,000 bits per second to a subscriber and at least 125,000 bits per second from a subscriber, and is primarily used to provide services in Idaho to public subscribers. In the case of a telecommunications carrier, qualifying equipment shall be necessary to the provision of broadband service and shall also be an integral part of a broadband network.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7308](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7308).

### **Fybercom LLC**

## **Commission approves telecom company's application to offer telecommunication exchange services in Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Fybercom LLC that will allow it to offer local telecommunication exchange services in Idaho.

The telecom company asked for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in its application. Fybercom said it is incorporated within the state of Idaho and plans to offer service to businesses that want hosted voice services. Fybercom also plans to resell internet bandwidth that will enable it

to offer several telecom services to customers, including basic telephone service.

The commission approved Fybercom's application after the telecom company submitted additional information regarding its proposed service area.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7296](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7296).

## **Idaho Telecommunications Relay Service**

### **Commission accepts annual report, budget for telecommunications service that provides speech to text, video and other services**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has accepted the 2023 annual report and 2024 budget for the Idaho Telecommunications Relay Service, which allows those with hearing or speech disabilities to place and receive telephone calls.

The Idaho Legislature established the Telecommunications Relay Service Act in 1992 in accordance with Title VI of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act. The service allows hearing or speech-impaired individuals to engage in telephone communications "in a manner functionally equivalent to that of individuals without hearing or speech impairments." The service includes a relay center where verbal conversations are converted, or relayed, to text-type and vice versa. The center also provides speech-to-speech, Spanish-to-Spanish, video, and Internet relay services.

The service is funded by assessments on local telephone service (residential and business) access lines and on billed intrastate long-distance minutes. The service is operated by Hamilton Telecommunications, which is reimbursed for in-state relay traffic and captioned telephone services.

The administrator for the service, Kathleen Toohill, reported that the center handled 1,221 calls in 2023, an approximately 11 percent increase from 2022. The service's expenses for 2023 totaled \$141,274. Disbursements to Hamilton were \$101,065. The administrative fees and expenses for 2023 were \$40,080 and the end-of-year fund balance was \$68,872.

Telephone companies reported a 3.0 percent decrease in total intrastate long-distance minutes, from about 60,936,000 minutes in 2022 to about 59,148,700 minutes in 2023. Average monthly telephone lines increased by approximately 1.0 percent, from 87,700 in 2022 to 88,344 in 2023.

The 2023 annual total contribution to the fund was \$112,149, a decrease of \$593 from 2022. In 2023, local exchange services contributed \$53,006. Message telecommunication services and wide area telephone service collectively contributed \$59,149.

Previous orders issued by the commission increased the per-line rate from \$0.03 to \$0.05 effective May 1, 2021, and kept the rate at \$0.05 per line and \$0.001 per long-distance minute.

The annual operating budget for 2024 is projected at \$141,232. This includes administrative fees and expenses, travel and conference costs, the payments to Hamilton and annual membership dues. Based on the proposed budget for 2024 and the 2023 end-of-year reserves, the administrator for the service is presenting four options:

1. Continue the present compensation rates to the TRS fund at \$0.05 per line and \$0.001 per long-distance

line.

2. Continue with the current long distance per minute rate of \$0.001 while raising the per line rate to range somewhere around \$0.07 per line to try and level out contributions to the fund. This would allow the 2024 end- of-balance to come out to an estimated \$45,000-\$50,000.

3. The commission could raise both rates.

4. Staff noted the commission could “look at other creative means of funding beyond landlines and MTS/WATS.”

After reviewing the administrator’s report and staff’s recommendations, the commission found it just and reasonable to adopt the second option. This allows the per minute rate, which appears to be contributing to the fund in a sustainable manner, to remain unchanged while taking a measured step toward sustainability by increasing the per line rate to \$0.07.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7269](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7269) and at [cdhh.idaho.gov/resource- directory/trs/](http://cdhh.idaho.gov/resource-directory/trs/).

## **Idaho Universal Service Fund**

### **Commission sets yearly rates for Idaho Universal Service Fund**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has set the yearly rates for a fund that helps provide telephone service to Idaho residents.

The Idaho Universal Service Fund was established by the Idaho Legislature through Idaho Code § 62-610 to maintain the universal availability of local exchange service at reasonable rates and promote the availability of message telecommunications service (MTS) at reasonably comparable prices throughout the state. It accomplishes this by taking revenue collected via a surcharge assessed on all land-line users and long-distance call minutes and distributing that revenue to telecommunications carriers that meet certain eligibility requirements.

The fund has an administrator who submits an annual report to the commission that provides information on the fund’s activities and recommending surcharge rates to meet the next year’s funding requirements.

After reviewing the report and commission staff recommendations, the commission set surcharge rates at \$0.24 cents per residential line, \$0.41 cents per business line and \$0.005 cents per message telecommunications service/wide area telephone service. The rates took effect on Oct. 1, 2024, and will last for one year.

The rates reflect a decrease from when they were last set in 2023. Those rates were \$0.25 cents per residential line, \$0.44 cents per business line and \$0.007 cents per intrastate long-distance billed minute.

Additional information on the commission’s decision and the universal service fund is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7350](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7350).

## **Infiniti Mobile**

### **Telecom company applies to commission to receive Eligible Telecommunications Carrier designation**

Infiniti Mobile has applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to receive designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier to offer Lifeline service and receive reimbursement from an assistance program.

If approved, the designation would allow Infiniti Mobile to provide Lifeline service to qualifying Idaho customers across the state, including customers on federally recognized tribal lands. Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission program that provides affordable communications services for low-income customers. Infiniti is asking to receive reimbursement from the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program for providing Lifeline. The telecom services it intends to offer include calling and text messaging to broadband access.

The commission is taking written comments on Infiniti's application until March 25, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number IMT-T-23-01 when filling out the form. If using e-mail, comments are required to be sent to the commission secretary and Infiniti at the e-mail addresses listed below and include the commenter's name, address and case number IMT-T-23-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Infiniti at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through mail are required to include their name, address and case number IMT-T-23-01.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7221](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7221).

## **Terracom Inc.**

### **Commission approves company's application to receive designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday approved an application from Terracom Inc., to receive limited designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

The approval will allow Terracom, doing business as Maxsip Tel, to be eligible to receive support from the federal Universal Service Fund. To qualify as an eligible telecommunications carrier, an application must satisfy requirements in federal and state law. The requirements include being a "common carrier" that offers services using its own facilities or a combination of its own facilities and resale of another carrier's services.

State commissions determine if receiving an eligible telecommunications carrier designation is consistent with the public interest, convenience and necessity. When evaluating the public interest element, the commission considers if the carrier contributes to state assistance programs such as the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program and the Idaho Telecommunications Relay Services. The commission also considers if the designation is sought for only part of a rural telephone company's study area, which could leave some customers without service.

Other requirements to receive the designation include submission of a plan for proposed improvements or upgrades to a company's network, demonstrated ability to continue offering service in emergencies without an external power source and a demonstrated willingness to satisfy consumer protection and service quality standards as well as a financial and technical capability to provide Lifeline service. Lifeline is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps make communications services more affordable for low-income consumers. Lifeline gives subscribers a discount on qualifying monthly telephone service, broadband Internet, or bundled voice-broadband packages bought from participating wireline or wireless companies.

For companies seeking Lifeline-only eligible telecommunications carrier designation, the Federal Communications Commission has waived the requirement to submit a network improvement and upgrade plan. These eligible telecommunications carriers do not receive funds to improve or extend their networks.

Terracom said it is seeking eligible telecommunications carrier designation in Idaho solely to provide Lifeline service to qualifying customers. It has asked for permission to be reimbursed from the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program, which the commission granted.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7080](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7080).

## **TDS Telecom, Level 3 Communications, LLC**

### **Commission approves interconnection agreement between telecom utilities**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an interconnection agreement between TDS Telecom and Level 3 Communications, LLC.

An interconnection agreement sets out the terms under which local telephone companies do business with each other when they serve the same area. The agreement is designed to eliminate the need for a customer to subscribe to multiple networks in order to be able to communicate with other customers.

Under the terms of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, interconnection agreements are required to be submitted to the commission for approval. Telecom companies that enter into interconnection agreements can negotiate terms, prices, and conditions that do not comply with Federal Communications Commission rules or other regulations.

The agreement spells out the terms and conditions for the interconnection of Level 3's network to TDS Telecom's network, and financial compensation for the transport and termination of telecommunications traffic between TDS Telecom and Level 3, among other items.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7219](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7219).

## **TruConnect Communications, Inc.**

### **Company files for eligible telecommunications carrier designation in Idaho**

TruConnect Communications, Inc. has filed an application with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission

seeking approval to receive a designation that will allow it to offer telecommunications services to low-income consumers in Idaho.

If the commission approves the application, the eligible telecommunications carrier designation will allow TruConnect to provide Lifeline services and participate in the Universal Service Fund for the purpose of providing Lifeline to qualifying customers in Idaho. Lifeline is federal support given to TruConnect to provide telecommunication services to low-income consumers.

TruConnect is seeking approval to participate and receive reimbursement from the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program.

The public utilities commission is accepting written comments on TruConnect's application until July 11, 2024. Comments are required to be filed through the commission website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number TCC-T-24-01 when filling out the form. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. Please use case number TCC-T-24-01. Commenters are required to include their name and address.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7280](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7280).

## **ZiPLY Fiber Pacific, LLC**

### **Company applies for eligible telecommunications carrier designation in Idaho**

ZiPLY Fiber Pacific, LLC has applied to the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to be designated as an eligible telecommunications carrier in the state.

If approved by the commission, ZiPLY Fiber would be allowed to provide Lifeline services. It is a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers and is intended to ensure the consumers can connect to jobs, family and emergency services. Eligible telecommunications carriers receive reimbursement from the Universal Service Fund and the Idaho Telephone Service Assistance Program.

Those interested in submitting written comments on ZiPLY's application have until July 16 to do so. Comments are required to be filed through the commission's website or by e-mail unless computer access is not available. To comment electronically, please visit [puc.idaho.gov](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number ZFP-T-24-01 when filling out the form. To comment using e-mail, please send comments to the e-mail addresses listed below. Please use case number ZFP-T-24-01. Commenters are required to include their name and address. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission secretary and ZiPLY Fiber at the addresses listed below. Commenters are required to include case number ZFP-T-24-01, their name and address.

Additional information on ZiPLY's application is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7304](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7304).

# NATURAL GAS

## Consumption and prices increase in FY2024<sup>1</sup>

In Idaho, natural gas is supplied to customers by Avista Corporation, Enbridge Gas Idaho, and Intermountain Gas Company. Idaho is located between two large natural gas producing basins: The Rocky Mountain Basin (Rockies) and the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin (WCSB).

These basins are connected through the Williams Northwest Pipeline and TransCanada's GTN pipelines allowing the natural gas utility companies serving Idaho to take advantage of capacity and pricing at both basins.

## Individual Idaho Gas Utility Profiles

FY 2024 Statistics	Total	Residential	Commercial	Industrial	Transportation <sup>2</sup>
<b><i>Avista Corporation</i></b>					
<b>Customers</b>	<b>94,957</b>	<b>85,029</b>	<b>9,851</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>9</b>
% of Total	100%	89.54%	10.37%	0.07%	0.01%
2024 Therms (millions)	159.16	58.60	34.14	1.75	64.67
% of Total	100%	36.82%	21.45%	1.10%	40.63%
2024 Revenue (millions)	\$108.744	\$72.46	\$34.09	\$1.53	\$0.67
% of Total	100%	66.63%	31.35%	1.40%	0.62%
<b><i>Enbridge Gas</i></b>					
<b>Customers</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
% of Total	100%	89.49%	10.43%	-	0.08%
2024 Therms (millions)	2.759	1.579	1.022	-	0.158
% of Total	100%	57.21%	37.05%	-	5.74%
2024 Revenue (millions)	\$3.46	\$2.18	\$1.25	-	\$0.0225
% of Total	100%	63.18%	36.17%	-	0.65%
<b><i>Intermountain Gas</i></b>					
<b>Customers</b>	<b>422,612</b>	<b>386,183</b>	<b>36,280</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>112</b>
% of Total	100%	91.38%	8.58%	0.01%	0.03%
2024 Therms (millions)	820.2	280.8	139.2	14.5	385.7
% of Total	100%	34.23%	16.98%	1.77%	47.02%
2024 Revenue (millions)	\$340.06	\$224.53	\$97.77	\$7.60	\$10.17
% of Total	100%	66.03%	28.75%	2.23%	2.99%

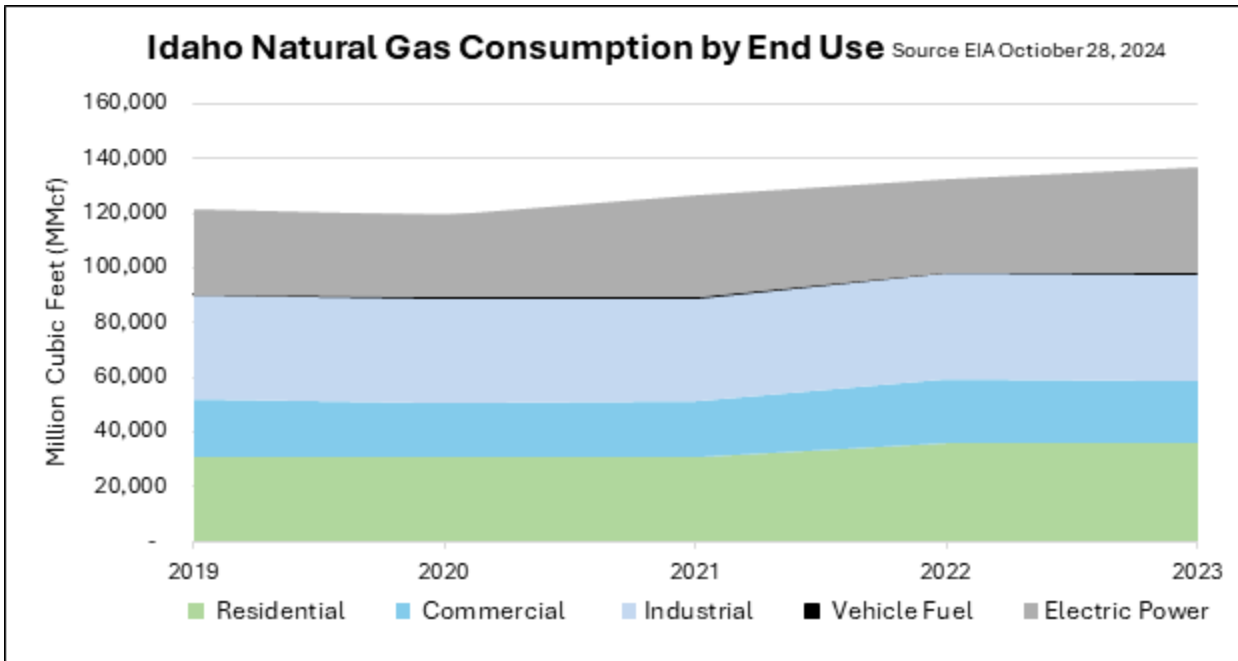
<sup>1</sup> The Idaho Public Utilities Commission's fiscal year is July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> Transportation is nonutility owned gas transported for another party under contractual agreement.

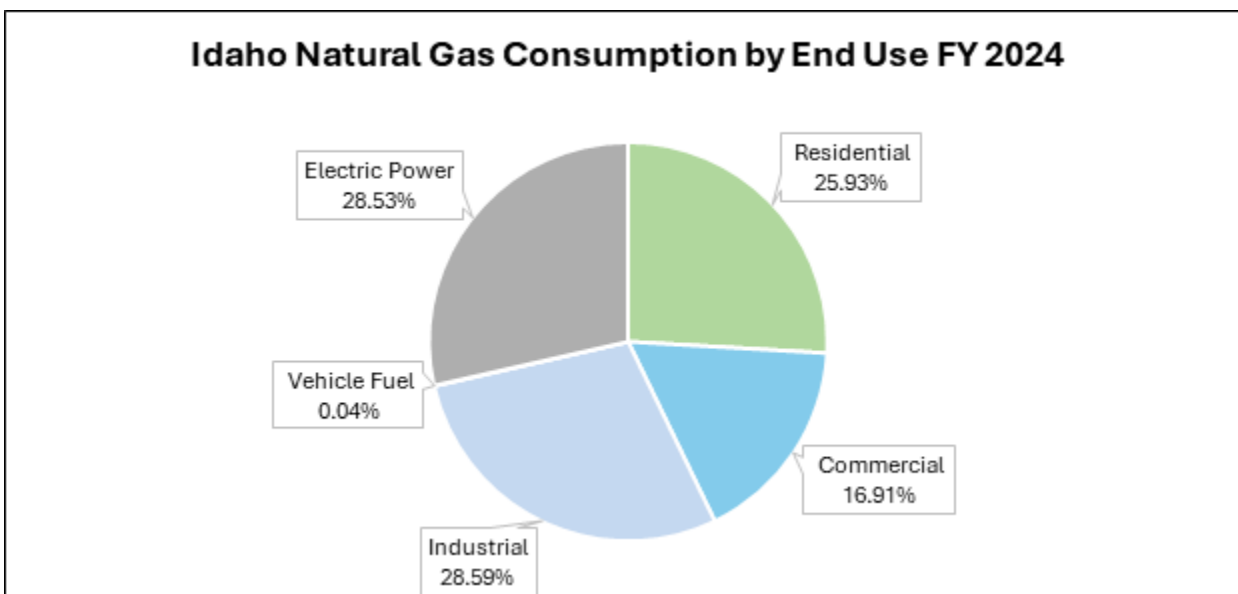
## Natural Gas Consumption

In FY 2024, overall consumption of natural gas in Idaho increased approximately 3.58 percent from FY 2023. Residential customers consumed roughly 1.18 percent less and commercial customers consumed roughly 0.15 percent more natural gas than the previous year. Industrial consumption increased approximately 0.33 percent and consumption of gas for electric generation increased by 14.7 percent. Use of natural gas as a vehicle fuel decreased slightly and remains less than 1 percent of overall consumption in the state.

**Figure 1. Idaho Historical Natural Gas Consumption Volume**



**Figure 2. Idaho Natural Gas Consumption FY 2024 Percentages**



## Natural Gas Demand

The Northwest Gas Association (NWGA) forecasts demand for natural gas in the Northwest to grow at a rate of approximately 1.2 percent per year over the next ten years.<sup>3</sup> Forecasted demand growth is 0.8 percent in the residential and 0.3 percent commercial sectors, while industrial demand growth is expected to increase by 3.5 percent per year largely due to LNG exports. Demand for natural gas to generate electricity is forecasted to drop -0.5 percent per year. Several factors could impact demand for natural gas:

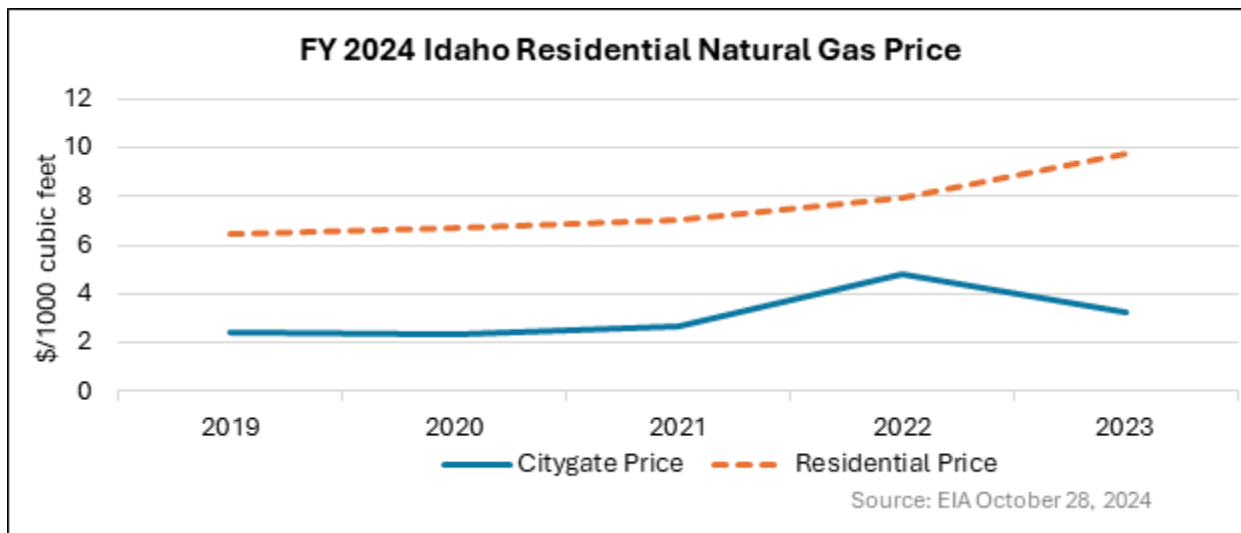
- Geopolitical issues and worldwide market demands.
- LNG and petrochemical production and exports.
- Energy policies, regulations, and legislation.

## Natural Gas Prices

Historical Prices:

In the past five years, the commodity price of natural gas was relatively flat with short-term volatility impacting the prices in 2022. In 2023, the natural gas prices at the city gate decreased from the 2022 prices due to increased supply, less pipeline constraints, and average temperatures throughout the year.

**Figure 3: Idaho Historical Natural Gas Prices**

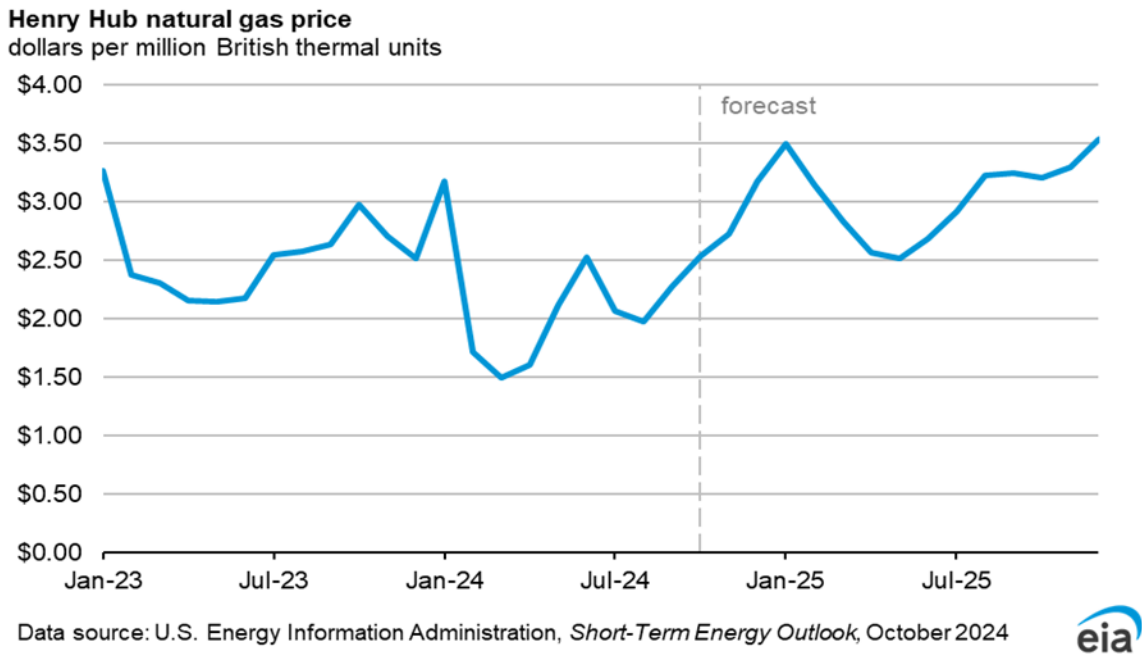


<sup>3</sup> Northwest Gas Association 2024 Pacific Northwest Gas Market Outlook  
**IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**Expected Prices:**

The U.S Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects prices to rise in 2025 as LNG exports increase, while domestic consumption and production remain relatively flat. EIA projects Henry Hub prices will rise to average nearly \$2.80/MMBtu in fourth quarter of 2024 and around \$3.10/MMBtu in 2025. The Henry Hub is the benchmark natural gas spot price in the United States. See Figure 4 below for the Short-Term Henry Hub natural gas price.

**Figure 4. Short-Term Henry Hub natural gas price<sup>4</sup>**

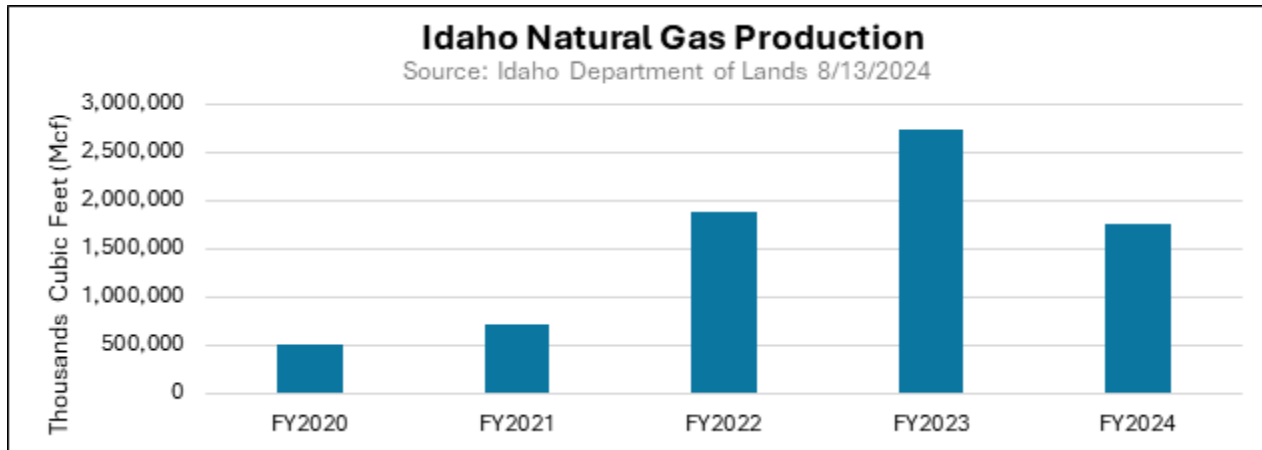


<sup>4</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/steo/report/natgas.php>

## Natural Gas Production

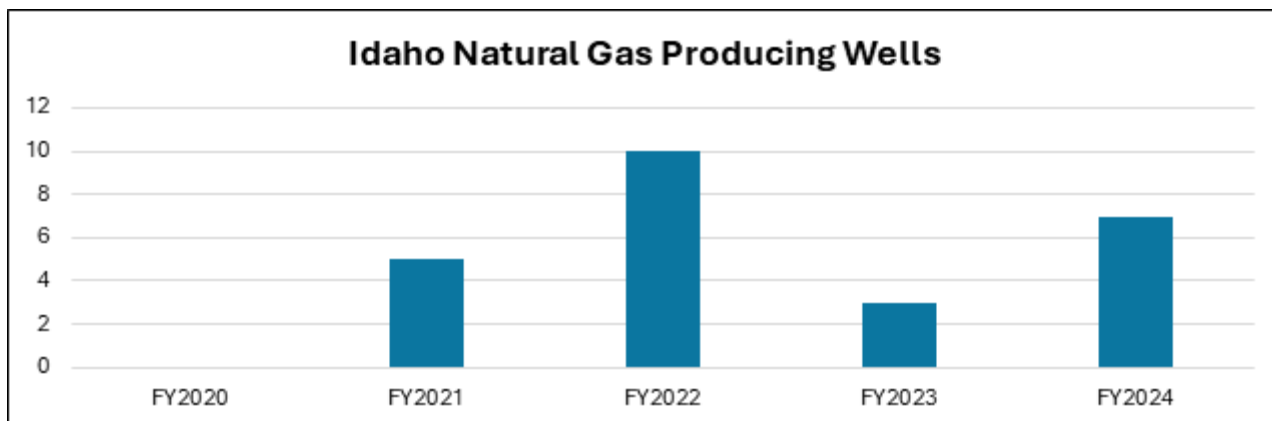
In 2008, a natural gas field named Willow Field was discovered in southwest Idaho near Payette and then in 2015, commercial production began from six wells on private lands. The resource is a relatively small, conventional deposit. The reservoir includes porous sand, is accessed via vertical and directional drilling, and does not require hydraulic fracturing (also referred to as fracking).<sup>5</sup> Production was down in FY 2024 as a result of low natural gas prices. All production was shut-in from approximately the first week of March 2024 until early June 2024.

**Figure 5. Idaho Historical Natural Gas Production**



The number of wells producing reflects the number of producing wells reporting production as of June 30th of the fiscal year. So, although FY 2020 shows 503,289 Mcf (1,000 cubic feet) produced during the year, all wells were shut in as of June 30, 2020. Wells are turned on and off at various times during the year for maintenance or other issues, so the number of wells reporting production at the end of the fiscal year may not reflect a maximum number of wells that were producing at any time during that year.

**Figure 6. Idaho Historical Natural Gas Producing Wells**



<sup>5</sup> BLM.gov <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/about/idaho>

## **Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)**

RNG is pipeline-quality biomethane produced from biogas. Biogas is the mixture of gases produced by the breakdown of organic matter in the absence of oxygen (anaerobically), primarily consisting of methane and carbon dioxide. It can be produced from raw materials such as agricultural waste, manure, municipal waste, plant material, sewage, or food waste. It is interchangeable with natural gas and compatible with the U.S. natural gas infrastructure. In the past, RNG projects in the state consumed gas produced in their operations or used the gas to generate electricity. A number of biomass operations in the state have capabilities to produce sufficient volumes of RNG for export onto pipeline infrastructure. On a per therm basis, RNG is more expensive to produce than traditional natural gas. Given current State and Federal Government policies and programs some RNG projects have the potential to achieve profitability.

Some natural gas utility companies in the state are facilitating the transportation of RNG and the growth of the RNG industry. Producers contract to use the utility's distribution system to move RNG from the producers to their end use customers. The utilities are monitoring RNG production activity and government policies as they continue to look for opportunities to participate in the development and expansion of this resource.

-by Kimberly Loskot, IPUC Staff Analyst

# Natural Gas Press Releases from the Commission for the Fiscal Year 2024

## Avista Utilities

### Commission is accepting written comments on applications to change rates for natural gas customers

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on applications from Avista Utilities to change the rates it charges to offer service to natural gas customers in northern Idaho.

Avista Utilities is seeking commission approval to adjust the fixed cost adjustment (FCA) rates for natural gas service from Nov. 1, 2024, through Oct. 31, 2025. The FCA is a rate adjustment mechanism that is designed to break the link between the energy a utility sells and the revenue it collects to recover fixed costs by providing service, which decouples the utility's revenues from its customers' energy usage. The decoupling removes a utility's incentive to increase sales to increase revenue and profits and encourages energy conservation.

The utility also submitted an application for its purchased gas cost adjustment (PGA). The PGA allows Avista to adjust on a regular basis the amount it charges customers to reflect the actual cost of the gas used by customers.

If the applications are approved by the commission, residential natural gas customers using an average of 64 therms per month would see their monthly bills decrease from \$78.03 to \$59.37, a decrease of \$18.66 per month. The commission can approve, deny or modify the applications.

The commission is accepting written comments on the FCA application until Oct. 10, 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](http://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number AVU-G-24-01 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 Avista Utilities at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number AVU-G-24-01. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Avista Utilities at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number AVU-G-24-01.

Written comments on the PGA are being accepted until Oct. 16, 2024. Those interested in submitting comments can follow the steps above, and use case number AVU-G-24-02 instead of AVU-G-24-01.

Additional information on the utility's applications is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7345](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7345) and [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7349](http://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7349).

## **Commission denies utility's application to account for costs associated with neighboring state's Climate Commitment Act allowances**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has denied an application from Avista Utilities to modify its annual power cost adjustment mechanism to account for costs associated with Washington state's Climate Commitment Act (CCA) allowances.

A power cost adjustment mechanism allows a utility to increase or decrease the rates it charges customers based on the actual cost of generating and purchasing electricity.

In its application, Avista proposed to include in the power cost adjustment the costs of: 1) purchasing carbon allowances due to the CCA to cover Idaho's share of the utility's Boulder Park natural gas generation plant that is located in Washington and is serving Idaho customers; and 2) buying carbon allowances for Idaho's share of surplus sales delivered to Mid-Columbia trading hub that require a carbon allowance.

Avista said that in 2021 Washington state enacted the CCA, which is a cap-and-trade program that is intended to eliminate the state's economy-wide carbon emissions by 95 percent by the year 2050. The utility said that under the CCA it must secure enough allowances to cover the carbon emissions of imported power and generation from Washington-based sources emitting 25,000 metric tons or more annually.

The utility also said its Idaho customers are affected because the CCA's carbon allowance requirement applies to the Boulder Park natural gas generation plant, imported carbon emitting thermal generation related to Colstrip, Lancaster, Rathdrum and Coyote Springs 2 for surplus sales at the Mid-Columbia trading hub, and all non-specific electricity imported into Washington for surplus market sales at the Mid-Columbia trading hub. Avista proposed to allocate 35 percent of the CCA's carbon allowance costs to Idaho customers based on the utility's production/transmission ratio. The Washington State Department of Ecology distributes CCA carbon allowances based on the production/transmission ratio and grants allowances at "no cost" to carbon emissions already regulated by that state's 2019 Clean Energy Transformation Act.

The commission denied the application after reviewing it and submitted information. While Avista only requests authorization to account for costs associated with the CCA, and not for any prudence determination for recovery, the commission believes the question raised by the application and the CCA is whether the costs associated with the act should be borne by Idaho ratepayers.

The commission found that after a review of the record, it is not fair, just, or reasonable to include costs associated with the CCA compliance in Idaho rates. The CCA is a Washington-specific policy initiative for which the state has established a revenue generating market through the creation and distribution of allowance for the state's greenhouse gas emissions. The commission is concerned that Washington is then requiring Idaho customers to pay the costs associated with complying with the CCA while at the same time mitigating the costs of that compliance for Washington customers through no-cost allowances.

The commission found that the interests of Idaho customers outweigh Washington state's policy interests.

Additional information is available at [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7021](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7021).

## **Dominion Energy**

### **Customer hearing scheduled regarding proposed sale of natural gas utility in south eastern Idaho**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has scheduled a customer hearing for April 10 to take testimony on an application to buy a natural gas utility that provides service to customers in Franklin County, Idaho.

Questar Gas Company, doing business as Dominion Energy Utah, and Enbridge Quail Holdings, LLC submitted a joint notice and application for commission approval of a proposed transaction whereby Enbridge Quail Holdings will acquire all of the outstanding equity interests of Fall West Holdco LLC, the parent company of Questar Gas, from Dominion Energy, Inc.

The public utilities commission is hosting the customer hearing on Wednesday, April 10, at 1:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time at the Elks Lodge in Preston, ID, 1229 N. 8<sup>th</sup> E. The commission will accept testimony for the record regarding the application. In-person attendance is required to submit testimony. Those who do not wish to submit testimony can listen to the hearing by calling 1-415-655-0001 and enter meeting number 2631 080 0497 when prompted. The hearing will conclude when it appears all customer testimony has been received.

Written comments on the application are being accepted until Wednesday, April 10, 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](https://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number QST-G-23-01 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, Enbridge Quail Holdings and Questar Gas Company at the e-mail addresses listed below. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission, Enbridge Quail Holdings and Questar at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are required to include their name, address and case number QST-G-23-01.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7202](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7202).

## **Intermountain Gas**

### **Commission approves natural gas utility's application for new rates resulting from purchased gas adjustment**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an application from Intermountain Gas that will result in a decrease in the rates it charges customers.

The rate changes are the result of the utility's purchased gas adjustment (PGA). The rates Intermountain Gas charges include a base-rate component and a gas-related cost – PGA component. The base-rate component is designed to cover the utility's fixed costs to serve its customers. These

include costs for equipment and facilities to provide service, and rarely change. The PGA is a commission-approved mechanism that adjusts rates up or down to reflect changes in the utility's costs to buy natural gas from suppliers, including changes in transportation, storage and other related costs. Intermountain Gas defers these costs into its PGA account and passes them on to customers through an increase or decrease in rates.

The commission's approval of the application will result in a decrease of \$6.69, or 13.14 percent, for typical residential customers' monthly bills. A typical commercial customer's bill will decrease by \$33.26, or 14.16 percent per month.

The rates are effective from Oct. 1, 2024, through Sept. 30, 2025.

Additional information is available at: [puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7353](https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7353).

## **Commission is accepting written comments on natural gas utility application to adjust rates**

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is accepting written comments on an application from Intermountain Gas to decrease the rates it charges customers.

The utility is asking for commission approval to change rates effective Oct. 1, 2024, that reflect changes in its purchased gas adjustment (PGA) costs. The rates include a base-rate component and a gas-related cost, which is the PGA component. The base rate component is designed to cover the utility's fixed costs to serve customers. These costs include expenses for equipment and facilities to provide service. The PGA is a commission-approved mechanism that adjusts rates up or down to reflect changes in the utility's costs to buy natural gas from suppliers, including changes in transportation, storage and other related costs. Intermountain Gas defers these costs into its PGA account and then passes them on to customers through an increase or decrease in rates.

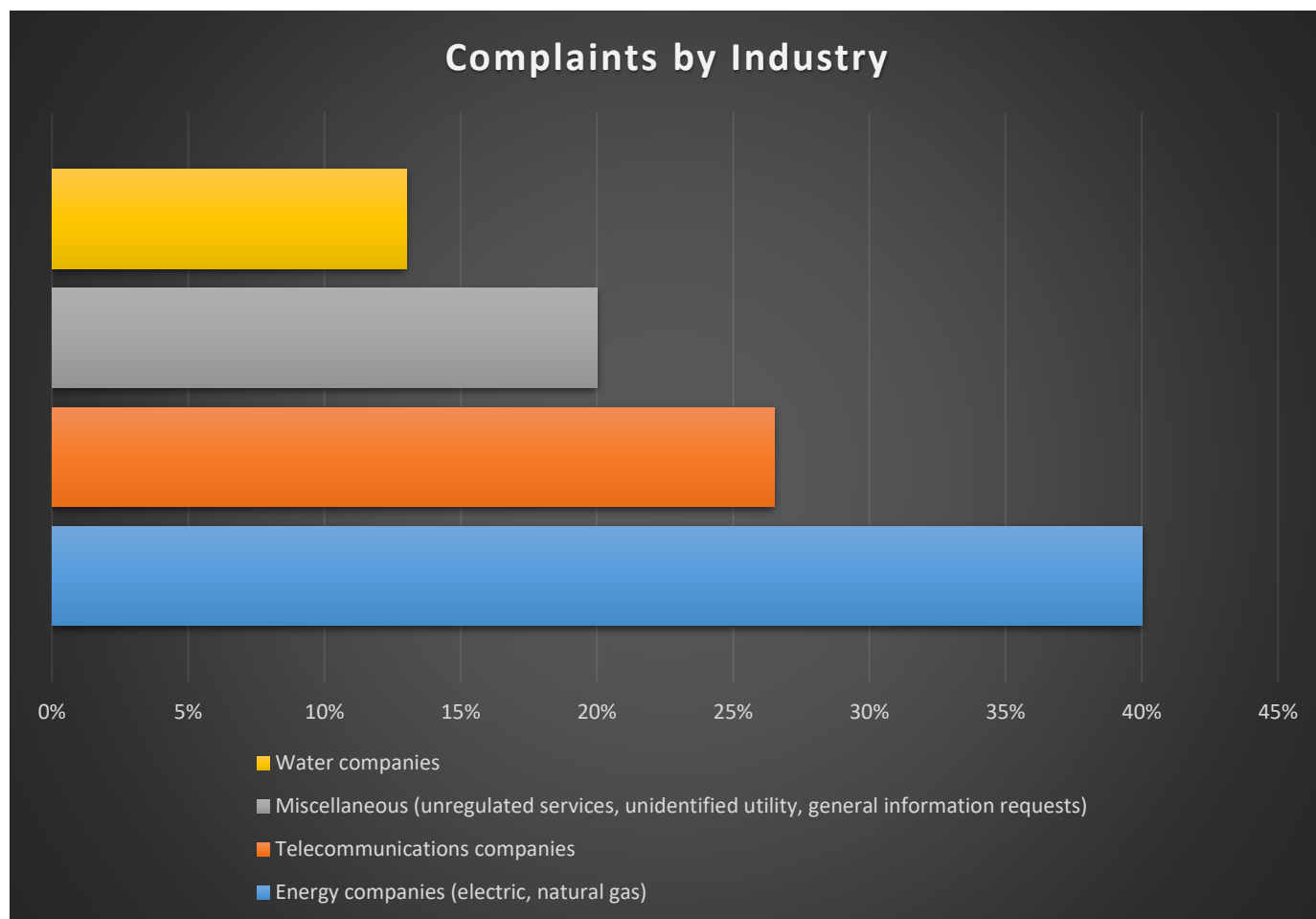
If the utility's application is approved by the commission, a typical residential customer's monthly bill would decrease by \$6.69 or 13.14 percent, and the typical commercial customer's bill would decrease by \$33.26, or 14.46 percent. The commission can approve, deny or modify the application.

Written comments are being accepted until Sept. 11, 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](https://puc.idaho.gov) and click on the "Case Comment Form" link on the upper left side of the page. Please use case number INT-G-24-04 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 Intermountain Gas at the e-mail addresses listed below. Commenters should include their name, address and case number INT-G-24-04. If computer access is not available, comments can be mailed to the commission and Intermountain Gas at the addresses listed below. Those submitting comments through the mail are

# CONSUMER ASSISTANCE

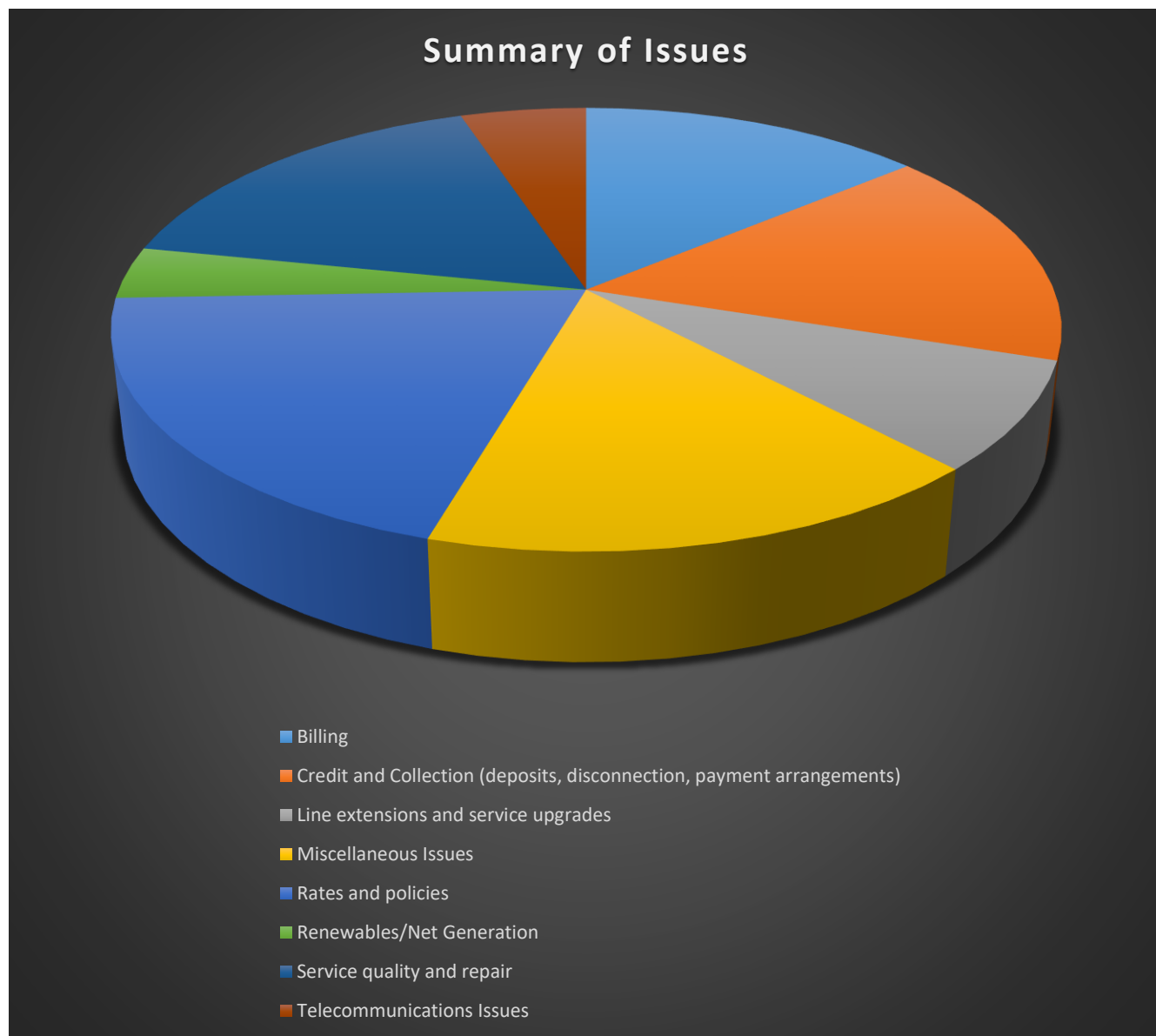
## Complaints by Industry

The Consumer Assistance staff responded to 1,238 complaints and inquiries in fiscal year 2024, a 9% decrease when compared to the previous fiscal year. The majority (89%) of complaints and inquiries were from residential customers. The chart below illustrates the complaints and inquiries by industry.



## Summary of Issues

The chart below summarizes the types of issues reported to the Commission. While the Consumer Assistance staff is able to respond to most inquiries without extensive research, about 59 percent of complaints required investigation by the staff. Approximately 31 percent of investigations resulted in reversal or modification of the utility's original action. Payment terms were negotiated in 10 percent of the investigations.



# RAILROAD SAFETY

The Commission conducts inspections of Idaho’s railroads to determine compliance with state and federal laws, rules and regulations concerning the transportation of hazardous materials, locomotive cab safety and sanitation rules, and railroad/highway grade crossings.

In 1994, Idaho was invited to participate in the Federal Railroad Administration’s State Participation Program. The Commission has a State Program Manager and one FRA certified hazardous material inspector. Hazardous material inspections are conducted in rail yards.

The Commission inspects railroad-highway grade crossings where incidents occur, investigates citizen complaints of unsafe or rough crossings and conducts railroad-crossing surveys.

The Commission also plays a role when rail lines are abandoned. More than 900 miles of railroad track in Idaho have been abandoned since 1976. Federal law governs rail line abandonments, and the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB), formerly the Interstate Commerce Commission. The STB decides the final outcome of abandonment applications. Under Idaho law, however, after a railroad files its federal notice of intent to abandon, the Commission must determine whether the proposed abandonment would adversely affect the public interest. The Commission then reports its findings to the STB. In reaching a conclusion, the Commission considers whether abandonment would adversely affect the service area, impair market access or access of Idaho communities to vital goods and services, and whether the line has a potential for profitability.

## Railroad Activity Summary

Rail Safety Category	Totals
Idaho Railroad Track Miles	1710/996 Class I *
Hazmat Inspections	195
Rail Cars inspected	8,937
Railcar Violations	5
Railcar Defects	252
Railroad Grade Crossings Inspected	510
Crossing Accidents Investigated	69
Crossing Complaints Investigated	4
Crossing Complaints Validated	6
Locomotives Inspected	6
Locomotive defects	0

\*Source: ITD (2017)

# PIPELINE SAFETY

Idaho Code § 61-515 empowers the Commission to require every utility to “maintain and operate its line, plant, system, equipment, apparatus, and premises in such a manner that promote and safeguard the health and safety of its employees, customers and the public.”

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60105, Chapter 601, the Commission is a certified partner with the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline Hazardous Material Safety Administration.

The federal/state partnership provides the statutory basis for the pipeline safety program and establishes a framework for promoting pipeline safety through federal delegation to the states for all or part of the responsibility for intrastate natural gas pipeline facilities under annual certification.

Under the certification, Idaho assumes inspection and enforcement responsibility with respect to more than 9,800 miles of intrastate natural gas pipelines over which it has jurisdiction under state law. With the certification, Idaho may adopt additional or more stringent standards for intrastate pipeline facilities provided the standards are compatible with federal regulations. The Commission has a state program manager and two trained and certified pipeline safety inspectors who conduct records audits and field installed equipment inspections on all intrastate natural gas pipeline operators under its jurisdiction.

## Pipeline Safety Activity Summary

Regulating Idaho's Pipeline	
Standard Inspection Days	80.5
Compliance Inspection Days	5
Damage Prevention Inspection Days	3.5
Construction Inspection Days	192
Operator Qualification Inspection Days	14.5
Integrity Management Program Inspection Days	7.5
Incident/Accident Inspection Days	1.5
Operator Training Inspection Days	0
Compliance Enforcement Actions	
Notice of Probably Violation	12
Notice of Amendment	0
Warning Letters	2

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# CONTACT LIST

**Contact IPUC:** 208-334-0300

**Website:** [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov)

Commission Secretary

1-208-334-0338

Public Information

1-208-334-0339

Utilities Division

1-208-344-0367

Legal Division

1-208-334-0324

Rail and Pipeline Safety

1-208-334-0338

Consumer Assistance

1-208-334-0369

Outside Boise, Toll-Free Consumer Assistance

1-800-432-0369

## **Idaho Telephone Relay Service (statewide)**

Voice:

1-800-377-3529

Text Telephone:

1-800-368-6185

TRS Information:

1-800-368-6185

This report and all the links inside can be accessed online from the Commission's Website at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Click on "File Room," then "Reports" from the drop down, and then on "IPUC 2024 Annual Report."

Front cover photograph courtesy of Veolia Water Idaho, Columbia Treatment Station.

This report satisfies Idaho Code § 61-214; this is a "full and complete account" of the most significant cases to come before the Commission during the 2024 calendar year. (The financial report covers Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2024.) Anyone with access to the Internet may also review the Commission's agendas, notices, case information and decisions by visiting the IPUC's Web site at: [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov). Commission records are also available for public inspection at the Commission's Boise office, 11331 W. Chinden Blvd., Bldg. 8, Suite 201-A, Boise, Idaho, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Commission, as outlined in its Strategic Plan, serves the citizens and utilities of Idaho by determining fair, just, and reasonable rates for utility commodities and services that are to be delivered safely, reliably and efficiently. During the period covered by this report, the Commission also had responsibility for ensuring all rail services operating within Idaho do so in a safe and efficient manner. The Commission also has a pipeline safety section that oversees the safe operation of the intrastate natural gas pipelines and facilities in Idaho.

Costs associated with this publication are available from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in accordance with Idaho Code § 60-202.