Jean Jewell

From: Ed Howell
Sent: Friday, August 15, 2003 12:55 PM
To: Jean Jewell; Ed Howell; Gene Fadness; Tonya Clark
Subject: Comment acknowledgement

WWW Form Submission:

Friday, August 15, 2003
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Case: IPC-E-02-12
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Comment_description: Landis+Gyr is pleased to respond to the PUC's request for comments.

Our responses to your questions are listed below:

1. Should the Commission direct Idaho Power to implement AMR on it's system?
AMR should be implemented if it makes economic sense and provides value to Idaho Power's customers. Given the power fluctuations experienced in the last few years, many believe that 2-way AMR systems can be justified solely based on their demand response benefits during critical peak periods.

2. How can advanced metering technology enable Idaho Power Company and ratepayers to make the most of future 'smart grid" transmission and distribution technology?
Today's advanced metering technology invariably allows metering data to be transmitted from the host server over secured internet connections. 'Smart' grid systems can easily have access to this data via the internet or by FTP data file transfer. This will allow these systems to analyze load usage, outage info., etc. in 'real-time' at nearly all endpoints on the distribution system and make faster decisions during critical periods.

3. As part of a wise investment, what features or technology should Idaho Power employ?
Due to the diverse geography of Idaho Power's service territory, it appears to makes sense to implement a mix of AMR technologies. An RF solution could be used in the more densely populated urban areas while a PLC solution (such as the DCSI technology proposed by Idaho Power) would make more sense in the rural areas.
Landis+Gyr, in conjunction with StatSignal, has a 2-way RF solution that is ideal for urban AMR deployments. With this system, Idaho Power can essentially create an RF blanket over the urban areas that will allow them to offer advanced services, which can greatly enhance the value of the system and economics of their business case. These advanced features, such as demand response via Smart Thermostats and Discreet Load Control, will have immediate impact to Idaho Power's customers during critical peak periods. Additional features such as Remote Connect/Disconnect, Outage Management, Theft Detection, Home Security, Health Monitoring, and Home Automation provide additional benefits that will enhance the business case and add value to Idaho consumers.

The Landis+Gyr/StatSignal ADI system can utilize any WAN backbone that Idaho Power already has in place, such as a Fibre-optic loop, RF radio, microwave, etc. This will allow Idaho Power to save on recurring airtime costs plus maintain control of the WAN backbone infrastructure.

Landis+Gyr also works with a wide variety of quality AMR solution providers, such as DCSI, Itron, Schlumberger/Cellnet, Hunt, American Innovations, etc.

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4. Under what timeframe should Idaho Power implement AMR?
The 4 yr. deployment plan proposed by Idaho Power suggests going after the hardest cost of service customers first, followed by targeted urban areas. Although this strategy makes practical sense from the standpoint of meter reading costs, initial deployments over the more heavily populated urban areas provides the most impact from a demand response perspective.

5. How should Idaho Power recover the costs associated with AMR?
The pending Federal Energy Tax bill will allow accelerated depreciation of the AMR meters from 15 yrs. to 3 years. A monthly charge could also be added to customer's bills to offset the cost of the AMR system. Additional revenues could be generated by monthly fees from the sale of optional enhanced services offered to customers (e.g. home monitoring/security).

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