

**IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**Case No. IPC-E-05-6, IPC-E-05-7, IPC-E-05-8, IPC-E-05-9**

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**Contact: Gene Fadness (208) 334-0339**

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

**Idaho Power wants to buy wind from Hagerman area projects**

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comments through April 5 on an Idaho Power Company proposal to buy wind energy from four wind projects in the Hagerman area. Combined, the projects can sell Idaho Power up to 40 average megawatts on a monthly basis. One megawatt is enough electricity to provide power to about 850 homes.

Each of the four projects consists of seven 1.5 MW wind turbines. The projects are Thousand Springs Wind Park, Pilgrim Stage Station Wind Park, Oregon Trail Wind Park and Tuana Gulch Wind Park, all owned by Montana-based Exergy Development Group. All four of the projects are in the same area as the Fossil Gulch project, another 10-MW project approved by the commission last year.

Each of the projects will qualify as a small power production facility eligible for rates set by the commission under the federal Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act, passed by Congress during the energy crisis of the late 1970s. PURPA encourages development of renewable energy technologies as alternatives to burning fossil fuels or constructing new power plants. The federal act requires that electric utilities offer to buy power produced by small power producers or cogenerators who obtain Qualifying Facility (QF) status. The rate to be paid to project developers is to be equal to the cost the electric utility avoids if it would have had to generate the power itself or buy it from another source.

In addition to these projects, Idaho Power recently initiated a bid process for 200 megawatts of wind generation, with March 10 as the closing date for bids. Idaho Power expects to add as much as 350 megawatts of wind energy to its generating portfolio.

The commission will proceed under a modified procedure that allows these four cases to be handled through written public comments rather than by public hearing. Those wishing to submit comments must do so by no later than April 5. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission's homepage at [www.puc.idaho.gov](http://www.puc.idaho.gov) and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (IPC-E-05-6, 7, 8 and 9) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.