

IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Case Nos. IPC-E-05-17, IPC-E-05-18

June 6, 2005

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Website: www.puc.idaho.gov

Idaho Power wants to buy from Burley area wind projects

Boise – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is taking comments through June 24 on an Idaho Power Co. request to buy wind power from two projects in the Burley area.

Montana-based Exergy Development Group is the developer of both projects, Burley Butte Wind Park and Golden Valley Wind Park.

Both projects include seven, 1.5-megawatt wind turbines. Burley Butte is about six miles west of three miles south of Burley. Golden Valley is about 6.5 miles west and six miles south of Burley. Burley Butte is scheduled to begin operating by Dec. 1, 2005, and Golden Valley by June 1, 2006.

If approved, the projects would qualify as small power production facilities 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.

Under normal conditions, the projects will not generate more than 10 average megawatts per month. If energy in excess of that amount is generated, Idaho Power proposes to accept the energy, but will not pay for it.

The commission will proceed under a modified procedure that allows these 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 June 24. Comments are accepted via e-mail by accessing the commission's homepage at www.puc.idaho.gov and clicking on "Comments & Questions." Fill in the case number (IPC-E-05-17 for Golden Valley and IPC-E-05-18 for Burley Butte) and enter your comments. Comments can also be mailed to P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0074 or faxed to (208) 334-3762.