

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

PAMELA AND SCOTT BOWERS,)	
)	CASE NO. IPC-E-07-14
COMPLAINANTS,)	
)	
v.)	NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION
)	
IDAHO POWER COMPANY,)	ORDER NO. 30421
)	
RESPONDENT.)	

On July 3, 2007, the Commission received a "formal" complaint from Pamela and Scott Bowers (the Bowerses) against Idaho Power. The Bowerses' Complaint was supplemented and/or reiterated with additional information received by the Commission on July 26, 2007, consisting of additional written information as well as a map of their subdivision. The Bowerses requested in their Complaint that new rules or laws be enacted dealing with shared transformers for business/commercial customers. With this Order the Commission opens an investigation and directs the Company to provide additional information as more fully set forth below.

BACKGROUND

In December 2004, the Bowerses obtained service from Idaho Power at their business, Bowers Transportation, in Caldwell, Idaho. The Bowerses' business is located in a commercial subdivision. A pad-mounted transformer was placed on their property, in a recorded utility easement, to serve their lot. They were required to pay \$1,461 for line extension costs above the allowance for terminal facilities paid by the Company in order to establish their service connection with Idaho Power.

Around December 2006, on the lot adjacent to the Bowerses, Terra-West Inc. (Terra-West), established service with Idaho Power with a line extension from the same transformer serving the Bowerses. Terra-West was not required to pay any money toward the shared facilities. The Bowerses complained that it was inequitable that they had to pay for a line extension to obtain service and Terra-West did not. They claim that they are the only lot owners in their commercial subdivision who are required to share service. The Bowerses are also extremely upset regarding the easement on their property and the entry onto their property to hook up Terra-West's service. Additionally, the Bowerses complain that because of the shared usage of the transformer, if their electric usage increases in the future, i.e., by additional

construction or buildings on their lot, that they will again have to pay for additional upgrades – where Terra-West has paid nothing.

DISCUSSION


Having reviewed the Bowerses' Complaint and accompanying materials, we find there is good cause to initiate an investigation into the line extension rules and policies of Idaho Power, and more specifically Rule H of the Company's approved tariff. The Commission has the power and authority to initiate this investigation pursuant to *Idaho Code* §§ 61-503, 61-502, 61-501, and 61-612, and may do so upon complaint or upon its own motion.

Pursuant to our authority and on our own motion, the Commission initiates this investigation into the Bowerses' Complaint including Idaho Power's line extension/refund rules and policies and Rule H of the Company's approved tariff. We direct Idaho Power Company to file a report within 30 days of the service date of this Order responding to the issues raised in the Complaint. The report should generally respond to the Bowerses' complaints including, but not limited to: The details surrounding the Bowerses' service request that led to a non-refundable line extension charge of \$1,461 as a result of applying the Company's Rule H line extension tariff; the details surrounding the service request of Terra-West that led to its service connection at no charge utilizing the same facilities that serve the Bowerses; and an explanation of how two customers using the same facilities can be charged so differently under Rule H of the Company's tariff.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Idaho Power Company file a report within 30 days of the service date of this Order responding to the issues set out above.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 5th
day of September 2007.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

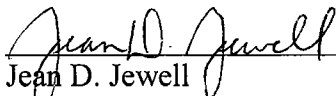


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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