

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION)
OF IDAHO POWER COMPANY FOR) CASE NO. IPC-E-08-01
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS RATES)
AND CHARGES FOR ELECTRIC SERVICE) NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DUE TO THE INCLUSION OF THE)
DANSKIN CT1 PLANT IN RATE BASE) NOTICE OF
) MODIFIED PROCEDURE
)
)
) ORDER NO. 30514**

On March 7, 2008, Idaho Power filed an Application to recover its actual and planned investment for a new gas-fired combustion turbine located at the Evander Andrews Power Complex in Mountain Home.¹ More specifically, the Company seeks to add to rate base \$64,981,978 attributable to the cost of constructing the generating facility and the necessary transmission and interconnection facilities. Using the Company's currently authorized 8.10% rate of return, Idaho Power calculates that it needs to increase its annual revenue requirement in Idaho by \$9,010,952. To recover the proposed revenue increase, the Company proposes that rates for all existing customer classes and its three special-contract customers be uniformly increased by 1.39%. The Company requests that the proposed increase to its base rates become effective June 1, 2008, which would coincide with the rate change resulting from the annual Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) mechanism.

BACKGROUND

In December 2006, the Commission issued Order No. 30201 granting Idaho Power's application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to construct and

¹ The Company's newest combustion turbine was previously referred to as the "Evander Andrews Power Plant." In the present Application, the Company has renamed the power plant "Danskin Combustion Turbine No. 1" or "Danskin CT1." The two existing 45 MW gas-fired turbines at the same site are now referred to as "CT No. 2 and No. 3." Application at n.1. The Company has renamed the site of the three combustion turbines as the "Evander Andrews Power Complex." Application at 1. In addition to the three gas-fired turbines at the Evander Andrews Power Complex, the Company also has the Bennett Mountain (162 MW gas-fired, simple-cycle) power plant located in Mountain Home. Order No. 29410.

operate the new Danskin CT1. *Idaho Code* § 61-526; Case No. IPC-E-06-09.² Danskin CT1 is a 170 MW natural gas-fired, simple-cycle combustion turbine. The generating plant was constructed by Siemens Power Generation. Williams Northwest Pipeline will provide the natural gas necessary to fuel the plant. Reasonable fuel costs for the Danskin CT1 plant are to be recovered through the PCA mechanism. *Id.*

In its Certificate application, Idaho Power provided the Commission with a “commitment estimate” of the project’s total capital cost. The commitment estimate for the plant was \$60 million, which included the firm bid price for the turbine (\$49,999,000) plus additional costs such as sales taxes, AFUDC,³ oversight and change orders. Order No. 30201 at 17. The commitment estimate did not include the cost of constructing or upgrading the transmission facilities necessary to connect the Danskin CT1 plant with the existing transmission system. *Id.* at 18. At the time, Idaho Power’s transmission group “provided a preliminary upper limit estimate of \$22.8 million” for the interconnection and/or transmission upgrades for the plant. Application at 5 (Case No. IPC-E-06-09). Subject to two exceptions,⁴ Idaho Power offered to absorb the capital costs that exceed the commitment estimate. Order No. 30201 at 12.

In Order No. 30201 the Commission found that in the ordinary course of events, Idaho Power may anticipate ratebasing \$49,999,000 (the amount of the turbine contract). The Commission specifically reserved its approval of recovering costs in excess of the contract price up to the commitment estimate of \$60 million “until after the project is constructed and an audit of such costs is completed.” *Id.* at 14. “Transmission costs to upgrade the system between Mountain Home and the Treasure Valley are subject to future review once the upgrade has been constructed.” *Id.* at 18. The Company was also ordered to provide the Commission with an updated report of the transmission costs.

² The Commission issued Certificate No. 465 authorizing Idaho Power to construct the Danskin CT1 on December 15, 2006.

³ “AFUDC” means Allowance for Funds Used During Construction. AFUDC is an accounting mechanism that recognizes the capital costs associated with financing construction projects. Order No. 29838 at 11.

⁴ The two exceptions were the costs of equipment to comply with new air quality requirements and escalations in assumed forecasts (such as inflation).

THE PRESENT APPLICATION

A. Plant Costs

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that in the testimony that accompanies the Application, Company witness Michael Youngblood states that the Danskin CT1 plant will be in commercial operation on June 1, 2008. Prefile Testimony at 4, ll. 21-23. He explained that the change in rates attributable to the Danskin CT1 project will coincide with the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) rate adjustment that normally occurs on June 1 of each year. *Id.* at 5-6.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Mr. Youngblood stated that the total capital investment in Danskin CT1 plant is anticipated to be \$57,335,866 as of June 1, 2008. The Company also anticipates booking an additional \$314,995 “shortly after June 1, 2008. The total amount of \$57,650,861 (\$57,335,866 + \$314,995) is the basis for the Danskin CT1 power plant portion of the June 1 rate change that the Company is requesting in this proceeding.” *Id.* at 7. The \$57.65 million is comprised of the following elements:

	Actual Charges thru 1-1-08	Estimated Charges Feb.-June 2008	Estimated Charges thru 6/30/08
Turbine Contract	44,999,100	49,999,900	49,999,000
Change Orders	493,386	191,930	685,316
Sales Taxes	1,312,256	180,000	1,492,256
Engineering, Oversight & Support	1,130,549	325,000	1,455,549
Other Infrastructure	341,718	375,000	716,718
Test Fuel	1,049	398,951	400,000
AFUDC	2,267,022	635,000	2,902,022
TOTAL	50,545,080	7,105,781	57,650,861

Source: IPCo Exhibit No. 2.

The Company noted that the estimated charges of \$57.65 million are approximately \$2.35 million less than the \$60 million commitment estimate it provided in 2006.

B. Transmission Costs

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that as noted above, the Company initially estimated that the transmission and interconnection costs were approximately \$22.8 million. Because the Company’s initial transmission costs were based upon an estimate, the Commission ordered Idaho Power to provide detailed transmission information and costs. Order No. 30201 at 18. In compliance with that directive, the Company filed a “Facility Study Report” with the Commission on February 20, 2007. In the study, the Company estimated that the

interconnection costs will be approximately \$775,000 (+/- 20%) and the transmission upgrade will cost \$22,392,414 (+/- 20%). The combined interconnection and transmission upgrade cost was reported to be \$23,167,415, or within a range of \$18.5 to \$27.8 million. Youngblood at 12.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the construction of the transmission system in this case includes four primary components: (1) a 230 kV transmission line connecting the Danskin complex and the Bennett Mountain plant; (2) the new Hubbard Substation; (3) a 230 kV transmission line between Danskin and the Hubbard Substation; and (4) the communications that tie all the pieces together. *Id.* In this Application, the Company has included the costs of the Danskin-Bennett 230 kV transmission line (item No. 1 above) and the communications that tie the two plants together (item No. 4 above). The other two components (the Hubbard Substation and the 230 kV line between the Danskin complex and the Hubbard Station)“are scheduled to be placed into service in October 2008.” *Id.* at 14. These last two components have an estimated cost of \$19.5 million. The Company will seek to recover this amount in a subsequent application. *Id.* at 15.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that due to delays in construction, the Company seeks to recover only \$7,331,116 out of the \$26.83 million in projected transmission costs as part of this Application. Youngblood at 10. This amount is comprised of actual charges as of January 31, 2008, and estimated charges from February through June 1, 2008. As of January 31, 2008, the Company stated it has incurred work order charges of \$6,554,318 plus AFUDC of \$139,811. Exh. No. 3. The Company anticipates that between February and May 30, 2008 it will incur additional transmission charges totaling \$636,987 (\$621,853 + \$15,134 AFUDC). Mr. Youngblood explained that the delays were attributed to unanticipated appeals of a required conditional use permit and delays in the BLM permitting process. *Id.* at 13.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that in summary, the Company requests authority to rate base \$64,981,978 (\$57,650,861 for the plant and \$7,331,116 for interconnection and transmission facilities). Application at 2.

C. Proposed Rates

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that based upon its authorized rate of return of 8.10%, Idaho Power calculates that it is entitled to an additional annual revenue requirement of \$9,010,952. Application at 3. To recover this additional revenue, the Company proposes a uniform average percentage increase of 1.39% for all existing customer classes and its three

special-contract customers (Micron, Simplot, INL). *Id.* The Company proposes that the increase in base rates become effective June 1, 2008, to coincide with the PCA rate change.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Idaho Power states in its Application that it has issued a media release and will notify its individual customers by bill inserts. *Id.* at 5. The Company requests that the Commission process this case by Modified Procedure with rates to become effective on June 1, 2008.

NOTICE OF MODIFIED PROCEDURE

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Commission has determined that the public interest may not require a formal hearing in this matter and will proceed under Modified Procedure pursuant to Rules 201 through 204 of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.201 through .204. The Commission notes that Modified Procedure and written comments have proven to be an effective means for obtaining public input and participation.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that any person desiring to state a position on this Application may file a written comment in support or opposition with the Commission **no later than Tuesday, May 13, 2008**. The comment must contain a statement of reasons supporting the comment. Persons desiring a hearing must specifically request a hearing in their written comments. Written comments concerning this Application shall be mailed to the Commission and Idaho Power at the addresses reflected below:

Commission Secretary
Idaho Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0074

Street Address for Express Mail:

472 W. Washington Street
Boise, ID 83702-5983

Donovan E. Walker
Attorney II
Idaho Power Company
PO Box 70
Boise, ID 83707-0070
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Michael J. Youngblood
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PO Box 70
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These comments should contain the case caption and case number shown on the first page of this document. Persons desiring to submit comments via e-mail may do so by accessing the Commission's home page located at www.puc.idaho.gov. Click the "Comments and Questions"

icon, and complete the comment form, using the case number as it appears on the front of this document. These comments must also be sent to Idaho Power at the e-mail addresses listed above.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if no written comments or protests are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider this matter on its merits and enter its Order without a formal hearing. If written comments are received within the time limit set, the Commission will consider them and, in its discretion, may set the same for formal hearing.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that Idaho Power's Application and prefiled exhibits and testimony of Michael Youngblood have been filed with the Commission and are available for public inspection during regular business hours at the Commission offices. The Application and testimonies are also available on the Commission's Website at www.puc.idaho.gov under "File Room" and then "Electric Cases."

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this case will be held pursuant to the Commission's jurisdiction under Title 61 of the Idaho Code and specifically *Idaho Code* §§ 61-307, 61-503, 61-523, and 61-622. The Commission may enter any final Order consistent with its authority.

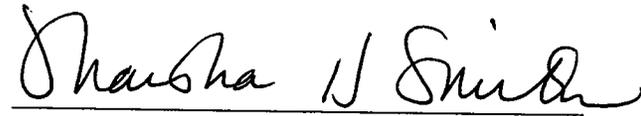
YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that all proceedings in this matter will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01.000 *et seq.*

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that persons desiring to submit written comments regarding this Application may do so no later than May 13, 2008.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 18th
day of March 2008.


MACK A. REDFORD, PRESIDENT


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER


JIM D. KEMPTON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:


Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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