

**BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION</b>	)	
<b>OF IDAHO POWER COMPANY FOR</b>	)	<b>CASE NO. IPC-E-10-25</b>
<b>ACCEPTANCE OF ITS 2011 RETIREMENT</b>	)	
<b>BENEFITS PACKAGE</b>	)	<b>ORDER NO. 32169</b>
	)	

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On October 1, 2010, Idaho Power Company filed an Application with the Commission requesting the Commission accept the Company's 2011 retirement benefits package. The Company does not request recovery of additional pension plan contributions in this Application.

Last year Idaho Power requested authorization to recover in customer rates its 2010 cash contributions to the defined benefits portion of its employee retirement package. The Commission approved the request in Order No. 31091, but directed Idaho Power to review and consider changes to its pension plan. Specifically, noting that Company pension payments may total nearly \$157 million during 2014-2018, the Commission stated that "it is unreasonable for Idaho Power's customers to be solely responsible for large contributions to the Company's defined benefit pension plan." Order No. 31091, p. 3. The Commission directed the Company to "consider changes to its retirement plan and address shareholder and employee liabilities in assignment of pension plan investment risk." *Id.* Finally, the Commission stated that it "will not approve recovery of additional pension plan contributions from customers without evidence that Idaho Power has carefully reviewed alternatives to reduce the burden placed on customers." *Id.*

On October 15, 2010, the Commission issued a Notice of Application and Notice of Modified Procedure establishing a 60-day period for filing written comments, followed by a 14-day responsive comment period. The Commission Staff and the Industrial Customers of Idaho Power (ICIP) filed comments on December 14, 2010, and Idaho Power filed responsive comments on December 28, 2010. On December 30, 2010, ICIP filed a Motion for Leave to File Sur-Reply Comments, with the comments attached. On January 6, 2011, Idaho Power filed a motion to allow responsive comments to ICIP's Sur-Reply comments, and also filed its comments in response to the Sur-Reply comments.

The Commission subsequently determined to convene a workshop “to provide the parties an opportunity to clarify statements and concerns expressed in their written comments, and provide the Commission the opportunity to ask questions to clarify the record.” Notice of Workshop, p. 2. The Notice of Workshop was issued on January 12, 2011, and the workshop was held on January 24, 2011. At the workshop, Idaho Power offered to provide additional information and analysis and stated a willingness to work with Staff and ICIP to reach agreement, if possible, on the extent of additional information and the schedule to produce it. The Commission also clarified that the Company’s ability to request recovery of the contributions it made to its pension plan in 2010 was not conditioned on completion of the review in this case. Accordingly, the Commission issues this Order to (1) direct the parties to discuss presentation of additional information and material to the Commission and to propose a schedule to complete the Commission’s review, and (2) clarify that Idaho Power is not precluded from filing for recovery of 2010 contributions to its pension plan before this case is completed.

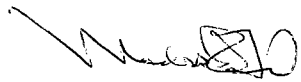
#### **ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the parties are directed to discuss presentation of additional information and material to the Commission and to propose a schedule to complete the Commission’s review in this case. Idaho Power is not precluded from filing for recovery of 2010 contributions to its pension plan before this case is completed.


DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 26<sup>th</sup>  
day of January 2011.

  
JIM D. KEMPTON, PRESIDENT

  
MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER

  
MACK A. REDFORD, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

  
Jean D. Jewell  
Commission Secretary

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