Idaho Public Utility Commission (IPUC)
Commission Secretary
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

November 12, 2019

Sent via Fax 208-334-3762

Re:IPC-E-18-15
IPC-E-18-16
IPC-E-19-15

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing me to comment on the above proposed changes that would solely affect the net metering folks. Idaho Power (IPC) filed this proposed action “to study excess energy from customers with on site generation” back in October 18, 2018 with the IPUC. Idaho Power Company (IPC) has determined and in my opinion, falsely claimed the net metering folks are taking what they believe is unfair advantage.

The very next day, IPC sought to “study fixed costs of providing electrical services to customers” under IPC-E-18-16 back in October 19, 2018. One has to ask why they need to “study the fixed costs of providing electrical services to customers”? How in the world did IPC come to their conclusions without previously “studying the fixed costs of providing electrical services to customers” that net metering folks are actually taking advantage?? Talk about putting the horse on the backside of the cart!

It is true that most net metering folks upload their energy to IPC’s grid. For almost all of us, IPC openly invited us and offered some small incentives to have a relationship with them by installing PV, Wind & Hydro equipment upon our property. Almost all of us had this equipment installed by professional local contractors. Thus creating jobs to install said facilities, and providing IPC with much needed energy due to their limited capacity at that time. All of us spent our own hard earned income; some received small incentives from federal and/or state government. All of IPC’s regular customers including all of the developers must pay for all of the equipment prior to having a line extended to our property. Then all of that equipment on incoming side of the meter belongs to IPC. All Net Metering folks purchase their own equipment to generate for their personal needs.

IPC want all of us to stop providing them with our excess energy or they want to charge us for uploading said energy. All the while, IPC is taking our excess energy and selling it for full value to our closest neighbors. All of that energy produced by the Net Metering folks cost IPC absolutely nothing! All the while, they state their goals are to be 100% clean energy by 2045. With this new settlement agreement, IPC is insistent in taking one-half of the Net Metering.
advantages for hiring these professional folks not to mention corporations also get tax advantages from our local communities along with the State.

IPC wants to jump across the smart meters to control our inverters. IF the IPUC approves their findings in their study, in most cases that could mean the net metering folks could be forced to purchase “smart” inverter, which IPC could control but not pay for it. That is why IPC under IPC-E-19-15 requested “to study measurement intervals for on site generation - under schedule 84”, which is what all net metering excess generation were categorized a few short months ago.

Currently, IPC does note how much net metering folk’s excess generation values are and reflects it on our statement. They do not pay us, in almost all cases they don’t need to build more facilities in order to provide energy to our neighbors. Thus Net Metering folks are helping their neighbors along with IPC. So how it is that IPC thinks we are abusing the system?

Net metering folks are not trying to sell their excess energy as a Qualifying Facilities nor as a corporation or city. Since we are mostly made up of individuals and a few small companies, most of us do not qualify for much if any tax relieve. Instead, we are under represented as a group and we cannot be a included nor allowed in any of the part of these studies discussions nor settlement meetings. Therefore, we unable to articulate our objections to the IPUC in such a complex cases without the opportunity to examine these studies and findings! So how we can prove that it is unjust, unfair and unreasonable? Net Metering folks cannot afford an attorney, let alone one that is knowledgeable and specializes in energy cases. Net Metering folks must live within their means and budget for our expenses.

I strongly object to having the value of my excess energy cut in half! I implore the IPUC to grandfather all of us existing net metering folks to a 1 to 1 ratio. There are not a lot of net metering folks to make a noteworthy impact on IPC. Thank you for taking the time to understand some of the frustrations and concern Net Metering folks have with Idaho Power never ending requests to the IPUC for more money.

Sincerely,

E. Vanderpool

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