

## Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Case No. PAC-E-11-12

October 29, 2012

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### Second year of Rocky Mountain rate increase is effective Jan. 1

The second year of a two-year rate increase settlement state regulators approved last January becomes effective Jan. 1, 2013, for customers of Rocky Mountain Power in eastern Idaho. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission today approved the company's updated tariffs for the Jan. 1 increase.

The 2013 increase is about 5.4 percent for standard residential service and about 7.4 percent for customers on the company's Time-Of-Use rate.<sup>1</sup> For a typical residential bill the average increase is about \$4.74 per month. The overall average increase for all customer classes combined is 7.2 percent. The first-year increase, which became effective Jan. 10, 2012, was 7.8 percent.

Rocky Mountain Power serves about 72,400 customers in eastern Idaho.

In May 2011, Rocky Mountain Power requested a one-time increase that averaged about 15 percent. In December, several parties to the case reached a negotiated settlement that represented about a 48 percent decrease from the company's original request.

Rate increase percentages for each major customer class are 5.43 **residential**, 7.4 for **Time of Use residential**, 6.38 for **commercial**, 6.2 for **industrial**, 8.25 for **irrigation** and 8.25 for **large industry**.

Before the settlement was approved last year public workshops were held in Grace and Rexburg and public hearings were in Downey and St. Anthony. The commission conducted a telephonic hearing for those unable to attend the public hearings. The commission also received 75 written comments.

This is a link to the press release issued by the commission last January when the two-year rate settlement was approved:

<http://www.puc.idaho.gov/internet/cases/elec/PAC/PACE1112/staff/20120110PRESS%20RELEASE.HTM>

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<sup>1</sup> Residential customers on the "Time of Use" rate are sometimes confused by a seemingly larger increase for them compared to standard residential customers. However, the average rate for Time of Use customers, who agree to shift their electrical consumption to off-peak hours, remains substantially less than customers on the standard residential tariff. The percentage increase seems higher because the calculation is made from a smaller base number. About 26 percent of Rocky Mountain residential customers (15,000 of 57,000) participate in the Time of Use program.