

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN RE COVID-19 RESPONSE) **CASE NO. GNR-U-20-01**
)
)
) **ORDER NO. 34781**

On Friday, March 13, 2020, Idaho’s Governor declared a state of emergency to combat the spread of COVID-19, provide essential services, and limit public exposure. Among other things, the Governor suspended the requirement that persons be allowed to physically attend public meetings. The Commission, in turn, issued Order No. 34602 to foster safe procedures at the Commission. For example, the Commission began to conduct certain meetings exclusively by telephone.

Since the Commission issued its order, the State’s COVID-19 response has evolved, and the Commission has resumed many of its normal operations. In order to remain compliant and consistent with the Governor’s objectives, the Commission issues this order to replace Order No. 34602 and reflect the Commission’s updated practices. The Commission continues to find, under Rule 13 of the Commission’s Rules of Procedure (IDAPA 31.01.01.13), it is neither practical nor in the public interest for utilities, parties, and the public to adhere to certain Commission Rules that might otherwise foster unnecessary in-person contact. Consequently, the Commission declares:


1. **The Public Utilities Commission Office Will Remain Open.** The Commission’s Office will remain open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Our staff will do everything they can to assist you. If you have business with the Commission, we encourage you to utilize our online services at <https://puc.idaho.gov/>. or call (208) 334 0300 for assistance.
2. **Persons are Encouraged to Remotely Attend Commission Meetings, Hearings and Other Proceedings.** To avoid situations that would cause persons to gather in unacceptable numbers, the Commission has enabled interested persons to attend the Commission’s public meetings and hearings either in-person or by telephone or other electronic means. We encourage remote attendance when possible. We also encourage persons and parties to remotely attend mediation, settlement, workshops, and other Commission-related matters. *See* Rules 211 through 215; 243; and 271 through 277.

3. **Safety Precautions Must be Observed When Physically Attending Meetings.** Persons should not physically attend the Commission’s meetings, hearings, workshops, or other public proceedings if they are sick. Persons who physically attend such public proceedings must, when possible, either: (a) maintain at least six-foot physical distancing from other persons; or (b) wear a face covering that completely covers the person’s nose and mouth when others are present and a physical distance of six feet cannot be maintained. We encourage persons both to maintain six-foot physical distancing *and* wear a face covering. Additionally, persons must adhere to all applicable safety directives in the Restriction Order from the District Board of Central District Health, State of Idaho (“CDH”) in effect at the time the Commission’s public proceeding is to occur. CDH Restriction Orders are available here: <https://www.cdhd.idaho.gov/dac-coronavirus-order.php>. The Commission may restrict the number of people who attend public proceedings to help maintain appropriate physical distancing.
4. **Electronic Filing by Parties.** The requirements of Rules 61 and 62 that a specified number of copies of different pleadings be filed with the Commission is suspended. Filings of applications and other pleadings with the Commission will be deemed filed when the electronic submission is received by the Commission Secretary. *See* Rule 14.02. Service between parties should also be accomplished electronically. (Voluminous discovery-related documents, may be filed and served on CD-ROM or a USB flash drive.) Notice to customers of a change in rates must still be accomplished by a mailing. *See* Rule 125.
5. **Electronic Service of Commission Notices and Orders.** The Commission Secretary has the discretion to serve all Commission notices and orders by electronic mail. *See* Rule 16.01. Consequently, the Commission will continue to issue all notices and orders by electronic mail, except for any Summons or Complaint, which will continue to be served by registered/certified mail. *See* Rule 16.01.

This order is effective immediately and will continue in effect until rescinded, superseded or otherwise amended by the Commission or its authorized representative.

////

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 17th
day of September 2020.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER



ERIC ANDERSON, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jan Noriyuki
Commission Secretary

I:\Legal\MULTI-UTILITY\GNR-U-20-01\GNRU2001_Covid19.2.docx