

MINUTES

HOUSE ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

TIME: 1:30 P.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Barbieri, Vice Chairman Furniss, Representatives Vander Woude, Horman, Scott, Young, Wisniewski, Raybould, Allgood, Bundy, Lambert, Mickelsen, Redman, Wheeler, Chew, Necochea, Rubel

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Representatives, Vander Woude, Horman, Wisniewski, Chew, Rubel

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Barbieri called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

MOTION: **Rep. Redman** made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Tyler Hansen, Substations Senior Manager for Idaho Power presented to the Committee on behalf of the Idaho Power Company. He stated Idaho Power's three core values and advised Committee members of Idaho Power's charitable contributions which totalled \$980,189.00 in 2021. He stated Idaho Power took its responsibility to provide reliable electricity supplies for customers seriously, noting that Idaho Power was able to keep the lights on 99.9% of the time. He explained to Committee members where power is generated and how it is transmitted to customers. Mr. Hansen stated Idaho Power served more than 610,000 customers across a service area of 24,000 square miles. Mr. Hansen stated one MegaWatt powers 800 homes.

Mr. Hansen explained the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line is key to Idaho Power's clean energy future, advising the transmission line will generate 1,000 MegaWatts of power in both directions. Mr. Hansen stated a diverse energy mix meant Idaho Power commercial customer prices were well below the national average. He noted Idaho Power's clean-energy goal is to provide 100% clean energy by 2045.

Mr. Hansen explained Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan to the Committee. He advised the plan informs company strategy by forecasting growth and determining least cost resources to meet demand. He noted the 2021 Integrated Resource Plan outlines adding 120 MegaWatts of solar power in 2022, converting Bridger Units 1 and 2 from coal to natural gas by summer 2024 with a 2034 exit date, acquiring resources to meet growing demand in 2023 through 2027, exiting Bridger Unit 3 and Valmy Unit 2 by year-end 2025 and bringing Boardman to Hemingway online by 2026.

In response to questions from Committee members, **Mr. Hansen** explained that one MegaWatt is able to power 800 homes for a duration of one hour. He stated that electric vehicles will require resources to charge and substantial distribution system upgrades are required to meet the added load. Mr. Hansen advised the Committee the replacement of substation transformers is a continuing challenge, and as the development of small modular nuclear reactors reaches a certain level of availability, Idaho Power's Integrated Resource Plan will be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Hansen also stated Idaho Power's resource planning and investments are made with the intention of meeting Idaho's load, he noted Idaho Power's mandated responsibility to prioritize Idahoans energy needs as Idaho is Idaho Power's territory. He stated that hydropower is a reliable and immediate resource for generating energy, and said removing hydropower would impact prices. Mr. Hansen advised that Idaho Power understands physical and intellectual security is an important part of stewardship, explaining high potential targets are protected by walls and cameras.

Bruce Howard, Senior Director of Environmental Affairs for Avista presented an overview of Avista to the Committee. He stated Avista served a total of 775,000 customers with 233,000 of those customers living in Idaho. He noted the Pacific Northwest Interconnect system is a robust one. He advised that Avista's service territory covered 30,000 square miles with a population of 1,725,000 people. He added that Avista has five offices in the state of Idaho. Mr. Howard advised the Committee of the sources of cost and rate pressure: low load growth, (close to 1%) reliability standards (transmission and generation), system upgrades due to aging infrastructure, cyber security protections, security of physical infrastructure, operational modernization, wildfire resiliency and public policies.

Will Hart, Executive Director of the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association, stated the association consists of eleven rural electric power cooperatives and ten municipal power companies. He explained how Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities distributed power to over 140,000 Idahoans. He noted that consumer-owned utilities deliver electricity to the customer "at cost", with no members operating on a "for profit" basis. He noted that consumer-owned utilities are self-regulated by elected boards of directors and city councils. He explained they draw 96% of their power from the Bonneville Power Administration. He stated they faced issues renegotiating a more fair and balanced Columbia River Treaty. Mr. Hart advised the Committee of the Idaho Consumer-Owned Utilities Association support for the Gateway West and Boardman to Hemingway transmission lines, and for hydropower.

In response to questions from the Committee, **Mr. Hart** advised Committee members the Idaho Legislature has no role in the renegotiation of the Columbia River Treaty. Mr. Hart also advised the same was the case with regards to the issue of dam breaching.

Russ Westerberg, PacifiCorp Idaho Representative, presented to the Committee regarding Rocky Mountain Power. He advised Rocky Mountain Power is responsible for 77,623 customers in Idaho. He explained 81% of customers are residential, 18% are commercial or agricultural and 1% of customers are industrial. Mr. Westerberg noted the Rocky Mountain Power Foundation's charitable donations totalled \$136,030 in 2022. He stated that significant investments had been made in renewable resources, which currently represent 30% of Rocky Mountain Power's capacity with the intention of reducing the percentage of coal in the resource mix to less than a majority by 2027. He noted the intention was to lessen this percentage each year thereafter.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Representative Barbieri
Chair

Jeremy Collier
Secretary