

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

**DATE:** December 14, 2023

**TO:** Caroline Moore

**FROM:** Madison Bolton

**SUBJECT: Idaho Power:** 2024 Tariff has been updated under the OPUC Order No. 23-438 without formal advice filing

**Background:**

Docket No. UM 779 typically requires utilities to submit a compliance filing with updated tariff sheets to reflect rate revisions for late payment charges and interest on customer deposits each year. The rates set forth by the Commission are intended as upper and lower bounds, respectively. As such, it is within the utilities' authority to charge a late payment rate less than the Commission determined rate as well as provide an interest rate on customer deposits greater than contained in the Order.

Some utilities have also implemented rule language to accommodate annual changes by the Commission that avoids the need for an update to the utility's rules or tariffs regarding interest paid on customer deposits.

For 2024 rates, Idaho Power fell under both such exemptions to a formal advice filing. Specifically:

- The rate charged by Idaho Power for late payments is 1.0%; which is less than the Commission determined rate of 2.3% and thus does not require a revision to comply with OPUC Order No. 23-438 for service effective January 1, 2024.
- Idaho Power's PUC ORE. No. E-27 Rule L states, in part, "Interest on deposits held by the Company shall be accrued at the rate established by the Commission specified in OAR 860-021-0210." The language in Rule L is such that it references the annual rate established by the Commission and the relevant statute to Docket No. UM 779 thereby obliging the Company to the most current rate without a direct reference to a specific order.

In Staff correspondences with Idaho Power, Regulatory Analyst Connie Aschenbrenner provided the following statements to the same effect.

“Customer Deposits: We will pay an interest rate on customer deposits of 5.5% per year effective 1/1/24, per the Commission's order. We do not need to make a compliance filing because [Rule L “Deposits”](#) of our Oregon tariff does not specify a rate, but rather states that “interest on deposits held by the Company shall be

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accrued at the rate established by the Commission specified in OAR 860-021-0210.”

Late Payment Rate: The way our billing system is currently configured limits Idaho Power to charging the same late payment rate in both states that we operate in (Idaho and Oregon). Effective 1/1/24 we will charge a late payment rate of 1% per month (12% per year) in both Idaho and Oregon; this rate is less than what the Oregon Commission has authorized us to charge (2.3% monthly or 28.02% annually) for 2024. We don't need to make a compliance filing for this because we are not changing the rate from what it currently is stated in [Schedule 66](#).”

**Staff's recommendations:**

Staff concludes, after identifying and reviewing Idaho Power's 2024 interest rate and late payment charge, that OPUC's Order No. 23-438 has been reasonably followed by Idaho Power. The 2024 Tariff has been updated without formal advice filing.

Cc: Mark Brown