

ITEM NO. RA4

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: March 17, 2020

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE _____
Upon Commission Approval

DATE: March 16, 2020

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: John Crider

THROUGH: Bryan Conway

SUBJECT: IDAHO POWER:
(Docket No. ADV 1100)
Request a change to tariff Sheet No. G-1 to allow a temporary suspension of the Late Payment Charge.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Idaho Power's (Company) request for a modification to tariff Sheet No. G-1 to allow for temporary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve the Company's request to modify tariff Sheet No. G-1 in order to allow discretionary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts.

Applicable Rule or Law

ORS 757.205, OAR 860-022-0025, and OAR 860-022-0030 establish rules for tariff changes and updates to rates. ORS 757.220 provides for less than 30 days' notice for a tariff change with good cause.

Analysis

The language in the Fourth Revised Sheet G-1, section 5, states in part: “Beginning August 31, 2013, a Late Payment Charge, as provided in Schedule 66, *will* be levied against any unpaid account that is not paid in full each month...” (emphasis added). The Company requests changing the language from “will be levied” to “may be levied” in order to provide discretion in applying the charge. This flexibility will allow Idaho Power to temporarily waive late charges for unpaid accounts during the declared COVID-19 emergency.

In its petition, Idaho Power states that it considers the tariff revision to be practical in the face of changing economic conditions for its Oregon customers, and believes the flexibility to waive charges is in the best interest of its customers.

The Company filed the request to be approved with less than statutory notice as required by ORS 757.220. The Company claims “good cause” due to the request being in response to the declared COVID-19 emergency. Staff agrees with the Company’s rationale for good cause.

Conclusion

Staff concludes that the Company's tariff modification request is warranted, is in the best interest of customers, and should be granted with less than statutory notice.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Idaho Power’s request for a modification to tariff Sheet No. G-1 to allow for temporary suspension of late charges for unpaid accounts.