

11/28/2022

Administrative Hearings Division
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
PO Box 1088
Salem, Oregon 97308-1088

Via Email: PUC.PublicComments@puc.oregon.gov

Attn: LC#78

Dear OPUC Commissioners,

Consider this:

Idaho Power maintains the B2H will cost 1.6 billion—the same figure they threw out 6 years ago. We all know this is impossible; costs have gone up tremendously in all sectors. The budget for the B2H has not been shared transparently with the public. The budget is only preliminary, yet Idaho Power is condemning land already. Before accepting this 2021 IRP a more detailed and transparent budget needs to be presented to the public's satisfaction.

The mid Columbia energy market is growing. Soon there will be no “excess” to sell to Idaho. People are starting to realize we are in a race to save listed fish from extinction, and the four Snake River dams have absolutely got to be removed to save them.

Idaho Public Utility Commission has said that building solar resources in Idaho, like Jackpot Solar is less expensive over a 20-year period than purchasing energy from the mid-c energy market.

PacifiCorp has not requested that construction of the B2H be “acknowledged” in their 2021 IRP. They have not signed the construction agreement with Idaho Power, did not participate in the EFSC process, and are not involved in the CPCN docket. This demonstrates a lack of interest. BPA already dropped out. Money is not secure.

On top of the fiscal risks, consider the wildfire risks, and above all the destruction of priceless native ecosystems in this time of climate crisis and mass extinction.

The OPUC is mandated to consider the “least-cost, least-risk” energy plan (IRP). OPUC looks at these plans every two years because the energy industry is evolving rapidly. The comparative alternatives are more secure and position us better for a self-reliant energy future.

Make the right choice for future generations: Stop the acknowledgement of the B2H project until the company provides at a minimum, accurate and verifiable data and budget.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Susan Geer
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