

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: June 6, 2019

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE June 9, 2019

DATE: May 30, 2019

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Natascha ^{NBS}Smith and Caroline ^{CM}Moore

THROUGH: Jason ^{EPA}Eisdorfer and JP ^{JPB}Batmale

SUBJECT: IDAHO POWER COMPANY: (Docket No. ADV 962/Advice No. 19-05)
Requests New Schedule 99 Community Solar Program Start-Up Cost
Payment Authorization.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Idaho Power Company's (IPC or Company) Advice No. 19-05, creating Schedule 99, Community Solar Program Start-Up Cost Payment Authorization, effective June 9, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve Idaho Power's new Schedule 99, process to remit monthly payments for Program Administrator (PA)/ Low Income Facilitator (LIF) start-up services associated with the Community Solar Program (CSP).

Applicable Rule or Law

- ORS 757.205 requires that public utilities file with the Oregon Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC or Commission) schedules showing all rates, rules, and charges for all services offered within the State of Oregon.
- ORS 757.210 establishes a hearing process to address utility filings and requires rates be fair, just and reasonable.

- ORS 757.386(7) specifies different treatment for the start-up and ongoing costs of the CSP.
 - Start-up costs: Utilities may recover prudently-incurred program start-up costs as well as costs of energy purchased from CSP projects (Projects) from all ratepayers.
 - Ongoing costs: Owners and subscribers (i.e., program participants) bear the cost to construct and operate Projects, plus ongoing program administration costs.
- OAR 860-022-0025 requires that new tariff filings include statements showing the new rates, the number of customers affected, the impact on annual revenue, and the reasons supporting the proposed tariff.
- OAR 860-088-0160(1)(b) clarifies that start-up PA and LIF costs are recoverable in rates of all ratepayers. Further, the rules specify that utilities' prudently-incurred start-up costs recoverable from ratepayers include, but are not limited to, costs associated with customer account information transfer and on-bill crediting and payment, but exclude any costs associated with the electric company developing a project.

Analysis

In Order No. 19-122 the Commission adopted Staff's recommendations for Community Solar Start-Up Cost Recovery and Remittance of Funds to the Program Administrator. As part of these adopted recommendations, utilities are required to remit payment to Energy Solutions within 15 days of notice of their monthly allocation of PA/LIF start-up costs from Staff. Further, Staff's adopted recommendations included a recommendation that Idaho Power, Portland General Electric Company, and PacifiCorp file tariffs specifying the process for remittance of payment for start-up costs.

The purpose of this advice filing is to establish the tariff governing the remittance of payments for PA/LIF start-up services. This tariff does not alter or change rates; rather it establishes a process for payment to the PA and LIF. After review, Staff determined that this tariff is consistent with Commission direction laid out in Order No. 19-122.

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the proposed tariff.

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PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Idaho Power's Advice No. 19-05, creating Schedule 99, to institute its new tariff, effective June 9, 2019.

UM 1930- Idaho Tariff creating Schedule 99