

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

LC 78

In the Matter of

IDAHO POWER COMPANY

Idaho Power's 2021 Integrated Resource
Plan (IRP).

RULING

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR A WAIVER GRANTED

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 30, 2021, Idaho Power Company filed its 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in this proceeding. In this filing, Idaho Power stated that it would file Appendix D of its IRP by the end of the first quarter of 2022. On February 16, 2022, Idaho Power filed Appendix D to its IRP. Appendix D addresses Idaho Power's transmission cost and modeling assumptions, most notably focusing on the Boardman to Hemingway transmission line (B2H) project.

On February 17, 2022, Commission Staff filed a motion seeking a waiver under OAR 860-027-400(5) and an extension of time to file opening comments on Idaho Power's IRP. On February 22, 2022, Idaho Power filed a response to Staff's motion that proposed an alternate deadline. On March 1, 2022, I issued a ruling establishing a deadline of March 4, 2022, for Staff to file a reply to Idaho Power. Staff filed its reply on March 4, 2022.

II. STAFF'S MOTION

Under OAR 860-027-400(5), Staff and parties must file their comments and recommendations within six months of an IRP filing. Staff seeks to move the deadline to file opening comments from June 30, 2022 to October 17, 2022, and argues that there is good cause to extend the deadline, as required by OAR 860-027-0400(1).

First, Staff argues that Appendix D includes assumptions regarding the B2H project that are integral to the IRP. Staff states that Idaho Power selected a portfolio with the proposed B2H project as its Preferred Portfolio, and its action plan proposes to energize this project in 2026. Staff also asserts that Idaho Power's ownership interest in the B2H project has changed significantly in recent weeks and that Appendix D provides

information about this change. Staff argues that it is unable to properly vet the assumptions in Idaho Power's IRP without Appendix D.

Second, Staff argues that, due to timing constraints with other dockets, it is unable to prioritize work on this docket. Staff states that it is unaware of any timing constraints for Idaho Power regarding resource acquisition that would be affected by delaying the comment deadline. Staff states that it is aware Idaho Power has concerns about the timing of its next IRP but asserts that Idaho Power is free to start its next IRP before this one is acknowledged. Staff also asserts that its timing request is consistent with the flexibility given to Idaho Power in its 2019 IRP when it sought a delay in scheduling for docket LC 74.¹

Additionally, Staff requests a prehearing conference for late April 2022 to establish the schedule in this proceeding. Staff asserts that it is unable to begin reviewing the IRP until late April 2022 due to staffing constraints.

Staff states that, besides Idaho Power, no other party objects to its request.

III. IDAHO POWER'S RESPONSE

Idaho Power states that it does not object to a partial delay of Staff's review of its 2021 IRP and is only concerned about the length of the delay. As an alternative to the deadline of October 17, 2022, Idaho Power proposes to move the deadline for opening comments to August 31, 2022. Idaho Power states that it is concerned that delaying the deadline for opening comments into October will significantly delay a Commission order in this proceeding, which is problematic for its biennial Idaho IRP. Idaho Power asserts that it is not a simple matter to begin its next IRP before the last one has been reviewed and states that Staff previously expressed concern about the effects an overlap between the 2019 and 2021 IRPs would have on the participants. Idaho Power states that it modified the start of its 2021 IRP schedule to minimize the overlap in cycles.

Idaho Power states that it may not fully appreciate the magnitude of Staff's workload and will not object to the October 17, 2022 requested deadline if Staff feels that its burdens outweigh the resulting impact to the IRP process.

¹ *In the Matter of Idaho Power Company's 2019 Integrated Resource Plan*, Docket No. LC 74, Memorandum (Jul 22, 2019).

IV. STAFF'S REPLY

Staff clarifies that it is seeking an October 17, 2022 deadline to submit its Staff Public Meeting Memorandum with its final comments and recommendation rather than opening comments. After further discussion with Idaho Power, Staff states that Idaho Power has withdrawn its objection to the requested extension. Staff now states that it seeks an order waiving the requirement to file comments and recommendations within six months and schedule a prehearing conference in March to establish a procedural schedule.

V. RULING

OAR 860-027-0400(1) states that the Commission may relieve any party of any obligation under the rule for good cause shown. Given the late filing of Appendix D and Staff's constraints, I find that there is good cause to waive the requirement of OAR 860-027-0400(5) that Staff and parties file their comments and recommendations within six months of an IRP filing. Additionally, the Commission will convene a procedural conference to consider a procedural schedule in early April. A notice will follow at a later date. Stakeholders may confer and jointly file a proposed procedural schedule by March 31, 2022. To the extent that stakeholders are unable to agree on a proposed procedural schedule, they may submit separate procedural schedules.

Dated this 7th day of March, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.



Sarah Spruce
Administrative Law Judge