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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON  
UE 426

In the Matter of  
Idaho Power Company,  
Request for a General Rate Revision.

**TRANSCRIPT  
OF  
MARCH 14, 2024  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
HEARING**

BEFORE: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, JOHN MELLGREN

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1 ALJ MELLGREN: My name is John Mellgren. I am  
2 the Administrative Law Judge, or ALJ, assigned to this  
3 proceeding.

4 It is 6:02 Mountain Daylight Time, or 5:02  
5 Pacific Daylight Time, and we are here for the public  
6 comment hearing in UE 426, the docket where the Public  
7 Utility Commission of Oregon will consider Idaho Power  
8 Company's request for a general rate revision.

9 This evening we will hear your comments on  
10 Idaho Power's request for a rate increase.

11 Please note that we are recording this session  
12 so that we have a record of your comments.

13 This evening we have Spanish translation  
14 services available through the Zoom platform which  
15 will enable you to hear this hearing translated into  
16 Spanish, and to have any comments provided in Spanish  
17 translated into English. I will now turn it over to  
18 the interpreters to introduce themselves in English  
19 and Spanish, and to provide instructions for accessing  
20 the Spanish translation channel.

21 *(Pause)*

22 KIM TOEWS: Victor, if you're speaking we  
23 cannot hear you right now.

24 *(Pause)*

25 ALJ MELLGREN: Victor, I think people are

1 having trouble hearing you. For folks -- Victor,  
2 could you try speaking again to see if I can hear you?

3 KIM TOEWS: It looks like he's already in the  
4 Spanish channel, and so if -- what we might want to do  
5 is have him go to the English channel to begin with,  
6 and then go to the Spanish channel maybe.

7 CHAIR DECKER: I think he wants us to stop  
8 interpretation.

9 VICTOR: -- interpretation to be stopped,  
10 please. Thank you.

11 ALJ MELLGREN: Okay. Kim, could you please --

12 VICTOR: Okay. Thank you. Now you should be  
13 able to hear me. Sorry. Yeah, I was already assigned  
14 as an interpreter, so like I mentioned yesterday if  
15 I'm assigned as interpreter I will be muted from the  
16 main channel.

17 Thank you everybody for joining us. Yes, we --  
18 as mentioned, we have interpretation available from  
19 English to Spanish and Spanish to English. In order  
20 to join the interpretation channel, at this moment  
21 it's deactivated so that way I can give the  
22 instructions, but in a moment you will be able to see  
23 a globe icon at the bottom of your screen with the  
24 word "Interpretation" if you're joining from a desktop  
25 or laptop computer. If you're joining through a

1 mobile device such as a smartphone or a tablet, there  
2 will be three dots with the word "more," from there  
3 there will be a menu, and from that menu you will be  
4 able to select your language of preference. If you  
5 prefer English, please select English, and if you  
6 prefer Spanish, please select Spanish. You can switch  
7 at any moment, but please make sure to select one of  
8 the channels so that way we can avoid people losing  
9 part of the message provided.

10 *(Speaking in Spanish)*

11 VICTOR: And in case you have any questions  
12 please let us know. We will be doing our best to help  
13 you. Thank you.

14 And back to you.

15 I'm ready to be --

16 ALJ MELLGREN: Okay. Thank you, Victor.

17 I will now turn it over to Commission Chair  
18 Megan Decker. Chair Decker.

19 CHAIR DECKER: Thank you, Judge Mellgren. And  
20 thanks to our administrative staff and our  
21 interpreters that make these events possible. Really  
22 appreciate everyone's hard work to bring in the  
23 perspectives of the public into our rate cases.

24 This is the first general rate filing we've had  
25 from Idaho Power in many years to update the rates to

1 cover their general costs of doing business.

2 I want to start by saying that we know with the  
3 rising cost of everything around us consumers are  
4 feeling the pinch, and for many, feeling a really  
5 desperate need for relief.

6 Regulated utility rates, because they are set  
7 in a forward-looking way, they lag other increases  
8 that are passed onto consumers more quickly, and so  
9 these rate cases that we have before us right now can  
10 sort of feel like the last straw in a tide of  
11 increases that folks have seen.

12 We can't, at the same time, ignore the rising  
13 costs that utilities face, nor can we allow them to  
14 stop investing in safe and reliable infrastructure and  
15 operations, but we really can ask tough questions  
16 about how the utility is performing for its customers,  
17 and whether and where the utility can reduce, defer,  
18 or eliminate costs that they seek to pass on to their  
19 customers. And that's where this process comes in,  
20 and where your comments can help shape it by letting  
21 us know what you think of the company's performance  
22 and where you would encourage us and our staff to dig  
23 in and question whether the utility's proposed  
24 activities are reasonable and cost efficient, and what  
25 you think of their programs and policies.

1           Our staff will review these comments and  
2 incorporate the ideas that they gain into their  
3 analysis and we'll have them on the record for our  
4 decision in the proceeding as well.

5           With that, I'll turn it back to Judge Mellgren  
6 with my hearty thanks to everyone who is here to  
7 participate and who is here to support this important  
8 activity.

9           ALJ MELLGREN:    Thank you, Chair Decker.

10           And just a reminder for everyone to please  
11 select a language in the interpretation setting at the  
12 bottom of your screen if you have not already done so.

13           Before we begin hearing comments from the  
14 public, I will provide a brief overview of the process  
15 for the Commission's review of Idaho Power's rate  
16 increase request, and then Commission Staff will  
17 provide a brief presentation on Idaho Power's request  
18 and their role in this proceeding.

19           Today's public comment hearing is one step in  
20 many in these proceedings. After today's hearing we  
21 will prepare a transcript of the comments received,  
22 and Commission staff will file them with their opening  
23 testimony in this proceeding along with any other  
24 comments received.

25           All comments will be considered by the

1 Commission along with other evidence provided by Idaho  
2 Power, Commission Staff and interveners in deciding  
3 whether and to what extent to grant Idaho Power's  
4 request. In making its decision, the Commission will  
5 balance the interests of utility customers and the  
6 utility itself. The Commission could decide to grant  
7 the request in full, with changes, or deny the  
8 request.

9 In addition to today's public comment hearing  
10 and next week's in-person public comment hearing in  
11 Ontario, Oregon on March 20<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will hold  
12 an evidentiary hearing on June 25<sup>th</sup> and will hear oral  
13 arguments from the parties on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

14 The Commission anticipates issuing a Final  
15 Order in this docket by October 2024 and any new rates  
16 would become effective on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

17 Please note that if you want to provide the  
18 Commission with written comments, you should do so by  
19 April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Information on how to do so can be  
20 found on the Commission's website.

21 I'll now turn things over to Melissa Nottingham  
22 with Commission Staff for a brief presentation.

23 MS. NOTTINGHAM: Hi. Good evening.

24 My name is Melissa Nottingham, and I'm the  
25 Manager of Consumer Services, and I'm going to share a



1 brief presentation of a high level overview of the  
2 company's proposal, Idaho Power's current proposal for  
3 a rate increase. So I'm going to share my screen now.  
4 Okay. Can everyone see that okay? John, can you --  
5 is that working?

6 CHAIR DECKER: Yes, Melissa it's working.

7 ALJ MELLGREN: Yes.

8 MS. NOTTINGHAM: Excellent. Okay.

9 Again, like I said, my name is Melissa  
10 Nottingham and I'm the Manager of Consumer Services at  
11 the Oregon Public Utility Commission. Part of my role  
12 here is to not only gather public comments, but  
13 tonight I am going to be providing a quick high level  
14 overview of what Idaho Power is proposing.

15 Oops, I'm going to do it one side at a time.

16 As Chair Decker said, Idaho Power's last  
17 general rate case was in 2011. The current -- the  
18 focus tonight is going to be on residential customers.  
19 If we look at the two graphs I have here, the two  
20 charts, the top one represents your typical  
21 residential customer's bill under the current rate  
22 structure. So, if the average customer in Idaho  
23 Power's service territory is using approximately 1,064  
24 kilowatt-hour a month, the basic charge is currently  
25 eight dollars and the average bill is \$139.92.

1           If the proposed rate increase, it goes into  
2 effect at the 10.7 million the new residential basic  
3 charge could be increased to \$15.00 and the average  
4 bill for a customer using the same amount of energy  
5 would go up \$32.37 to \$172.29. The potential overall  
6 increase on that is 23.14%.

7           Recognizing that the impact to customers will  
8 vary depending on the amount of energy or the  
9 kilowatt-hour usage per month, and also with Staff  
10 wanting to focus in on how the rates will impact  
11 different types of structures, and different  
12 customers, and different geographic areas, we've kind  
13 of used this side to split out some of the average  
14 monthly usage and potential impacts to those  
15 customers. For example, it can vary based on the type  
16 of structure, we have mobile home owners here. It can  
17 also vary on geography based on the weather, and also  
18 availability to energy efficiency programs, incomes.  
19 So, with that, this slide will kind of best  
20 demonstrate a broader picture of how this could impact  
21 different customers in different areas.

22           So, for example, in the Baker/Harney area, the  
23 average usage there is 1,137, so they could see a  
24 potential increase of 23%. In mobile home owners,  
25 which have different usage powers -- patterns, excuse

1 me, for electricity, have a little higher than state  
2 average of 1,205 kilowatt-hours. They could see an  
3 increase from \$141.60 to \$174.00. And in Malheur and  
4 outlying areas, they have a higher than state average  
5 kilowatt-hour usage, and they could see their bill  
6 increase approximately 22%.

7 Now, when we're looking at this rate case,  
8 we're looking at the company's, the base rate. So,  
9 they're asking for 10.7 million, and I've already kind  
10 of mentioned what would be that impact to a  
11 residential customer, but that doesn't paint the total  
12 picture of what -- the net impact to a customer's  
13 bill. You have your base revenue, which like I stated  
14 earlier, they have not changed since 2011, and then  
15 you have the real impact to the bill, and what that  
16 includes is riders, and what I mean by riders is there  
17 are other rate schedules that are either credits, or  
18 they are additional charges that are added onto the  
19 bill. For example, if we look at Schedule 56, is  
20 their power cost adjustment, that's an annual filing  
21 each year that allows for more of -- the ability to  
22 kind of recognizes changing markets with gas prices  
23 and power purchase costs, so that's an annual  
24 adjustment that can -- that gets to consumers faster  
25 that way than waiting for a general rate case.

1           What I'm trying to say is that we have our base  
2 rates, and then we have all of the sub-schedules that  
3 are total on your bill.

4           So, when we look at everything together, the  
5 translation in this rate case, although it's 10.7  
6 million, that's where we're getting the 23.14. If  
7 it's a standalone on the increase to the base rates in  
8 the rate case for a residential customer, it would be  
9 26.7% on average.

10           So, what are driving these costs? Idaho Power  
11 has set forth in their rate case that the largest  
12 recovery they are seeking for is for capital  
13 investments which represents 51% of the reasons cited  
14 for the increase. Capital investments can be anything  
15 from generation sources that have been brought online  
16 since 2011, new transmission, new distribution. It's  
17 the company's investment in their infrastructure and  
18 their generation to improve reliability. The cost of  
19 capital is one percent, which is, of course, what the  
20 cost is for the company to incur these investments.

21           Operation and maintenance, which is another  
22 bucket here at 35, the second largest bucket, those  
23 are the daily operations for the utility. So this  
24 would include labor costs, they include gas, they  
25 include insurance, and all the business expenses that

1 the company needs to operate. Depreciation is an  
2 accounting methodology that recognizes the costs of  
3 the depreciation of a capital investment over the  
4 years as it ages, so that represents 14%.

5 So, that gives you a pretty high level pie  
6 chart of the different components of Idaho's request.

7 Now, if we break it down to how those -- how  
8 that ask is then translated into expected revenue for  
9 the company with this increase, again, not  
10 surprisingly the 13.2 is going to be our capital  
11 projects transmission plans. There is a 40-megawatt  
12 battery installation the company has included in their  
13 rates to improve reliability and resiliency, the --  
14 the cost of capital, like I mentioned, operation and  
15 maintenance, the debits and credits, depreciation,  
16 they get an offset with taxes, and then any operating  
17 revenue offsets since the last base rate in 2011, and  
18 that could be operational savings and other things the  
19 company has done to reduce their costs.

20 So, of the 10.7 that's how the 19.2% increase  
21 to base rates is allocated as far as looking at it  
22 from a revenue perspective.

23 So what is not covered in this? There were  
24 some initiatives under House Bill 2475 with some  
25 environment energy justice programs. I do want to

1 specify though that Idaho Power is proposing an income  
2 eligible rate for residential customers in this rate  
3 case. It would be based -- it would be a percentage  
4 reduction of their overall bill based on household  
5 income. So that is included in this, they haven't had  
6 one of those prior. But I just want to reiterate that  
7 even though some of these energy justice programs that  
8 are mandated by the State may not be entirely included  
9 on this, that Staff does use the energy justice lens  
10 looking at sort of the overall impact to a variety of  
11 different customers based on economic and geographic  
12 areas. Kind of what we talked about on slide three,  
13 we are looking at that overall impact of any rate  
14 changes for customers.

15 Also, there's any broad electrification or  
16 environmental programs initiated by the State may not  
17 be in here, but we are looking at any green energy  
18 projects will be reviewed for prudent management and  
19 efficient cost control. So there may be components of  
20 these in this rate case.

21 About Staff. Who works on these? So when  
22 Staff is taking their review and trying to make sure  
23 that these are prudent and reasonable costs that the  
24 company is asking for, we have accountants, financial  
25 analysts, economists, engineers. We're looking at the

1 -- we have people that are reviewing the -- from an  
2 engineering standpoint as far as a reasonableness, as  
3 far as economists, how does this fit into the current  
4 economic environment, and they do all of their  
5 analysis, like I said earlier, to make sure that any  
6 of these costs that the company is requesting are  
7 prudent, are reasonable, and contribute to providing  
8 reliable power to Oregon customers in the Idaho  
9 service territory.

10 We're also paired with attorneys from the DOJ  
11 who help put together Staff's case that will be then  
12 reviewed by the Commission in part of the record.

13 So, just kind of I talked about, is part of  
14 that process is analyzing all of the filings. We  
15 request more information. We write testimony. We  
16 review testimony received from the company. We also  
17 -- we'll look at other testimony that is submitted by  
18 interveners. We develop -- there's a settlement  
19 position, and we have attorneys that are working with  
20 Staff that will cross-examine witnesses, submit legal  
21 briefs, and make oral arguments.

22 So that's all I have for the presentation.  
23 Again, like I said, I just wanted to kind of present a  
24 high level overview of some of the components and the  
25 potential impact to residential customers.

1 Thank you, John.

2 ALJ MELLGREN: Thank you very much. I  
3 appreciate that.

4 We are now going to hear public comments on  
5 Idaho Power's request. Let me go over the process we  
6 will be using to hear from everyone.

7 First, please make sure you have selected  
8 either the English or Spanish channel after clicking  
9 the interpretation button at the bottom of your  
10 screen. If you click the Spanish option, you will  
11 hear a Spanish translation of everything this evening,  
12 and we'll be able to have your comments translated  
13 from Spanish to English.

14 Second, if you plan to provide comments this  
15 evening, please take a minute to ensure that you have  
16 renamed yourself in Zoom so that your name, and if  
17 applicable, the group or entity you are appearing for  
18 can be seen. You can rename yourself by clicking on  
19 the "More" button next to your name in the  
20 participants panel. To open the participants panel,  
21 click the "participants" button at the bottom of your  
22 screen.

23 In order to stay organized tonight, we will be  
24 using the "raise your hand" function in Zoom. For  
25 participants using a PC, you can find the "raise your



1 hand" function under the reactions menu at the bottom  
2 of your screen, and if you are on a Mac, an iPad, or  
3 iPhone, you may need to click on the "More" button at  
4 the bottom of your screen to find the "raise your  
5 hand" function. For those of you joining by phone,  
6 you can raise your hand by pressing \*9, and to unmute  
7 yourself by using \*6.

8 I will call on individuals by name or phone  
9 number when it is your turn to speak, and will unmute  
10 you at that time. You may also need to unmute your  
11 computer microphone or telephone at that time.

12 I ask that everyone stay muted until called  
13 upon to minimize background noise.

14 This is an opportunity for you to offer  
15 comments on Idaho Power's rate request. The  
16 Commissioners will be listening carefully, but will  
17 not be answering questions or responding to individual  
18 comments tonight.

19 When called to speak, please speak slowly and  
20 clearly, and state your name for the record. Your  
21 comments are being recorded, and we want to make sure  
22 they are clearly heard, and we also want to ensure  
23 that they can be translated into Spanish.

24 When speaking, please provide a brief summary  
25 of your views, and if you have prepared written

1 comments, I ask that you please summarize the comments  
2 and submit the entire written comments by email to the  
3 Commission. You can also avoid repeating statements  
4 already made by others by stating you agree with the  
5 comments of another individual.

6 I ask that speakers limit their comments so  
7 that we can try to hear from everyone who is with us  
8 this evening, and if necessary I may need to interrupt  
9 you and ask that you wrap-up your comments to ensure  
10 everyone has an opportunity to be heard. And at the  
11 end of your comments, please let us know you are done  
12 speaking.

13 With that, we will get started. If you would  
14 like to provide comments, please use the "raise your  
15 hand" function in Zoom, or if you are here by phone,  
16 you can press \*9 to raise your hand. And I will call  
17 on people in the order they appear on my screen.

18 Again, you can use the "raise your hand"  
19 function if you would like to provide a public comment  
20 this evening.

21 *(Pause)*

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: John, can you hear me?

23 ALJ MELLGREN: Yes.

24 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You can. Okay. Thank  
25 you. I'm sorry for interrupting. We're having a

1 little trouble with the translation side.

2 (Pause)

3 ALJ MELLGREN: Again, if you'd like to provide  
4 public comment please use the "raise your hand" button  
5 in Zoom.

6 Julie. You can unmute yourself and provide  
7 your public comment.

8 JULIE: Hi. So, as far as how their expenses  
9 go, what is the breakdown of that, what they are  
10 spending on?

11 CHAIR DECKER: Melissa --

12 JULIE: And --

13 CHAIR DECKER: -- do you want to pull your  
14 slide back up? The pie chart.

15 MS. NOTTINGHAM: Yeah. Hold on just a sec.

16 JULIE: Because it -- it only says percentage,  
17 but it doesn't give a clear breakdown. With an  
18 increase like 20% over, the public should be able to  
19 see that, and also factor in the fact that the income  
20 guideline would have to reflect the increase, too. I  
21 hope that makes sense.

22 CHAIR DECKER: I think we've captured your  
23 comment, but yeah, I see what you're saying, that this  
24 has percentages that aren't necessarily amount to the  
25 dollar amount. But, Melissa, I think that reflects

1 the 10.7 million dollars that's in this chart. But I  
2 hear your comment though as, you know, maybe all the  
3 answers aren't here and you're looking for more  
4 clarity on what the --

5 JULIE: Full breakdown is?

6 CHAIR DECKER: Yeah.

7 MS. NOTTINGHAM: Yeah, looking -- I don't know  
8 if you can see my screen here, it just sort of shows  
9 of the 10.7 million what percentage is allocated to  
10 each of these different cost drivers. So, but, yeah,  
11 it's a very good point, it doesn't necessarily have  
12 the dollars associated, just the percentages of the  
13 10.7 million.

14 JULIE: Yeah. So, like --

15 MS. NOTTINGHAM: Good feedback. Thank you.

16 JULIE: (*inaudible - audio cuts out*). And as  
17 far as guideline -- like income guideline, like for me  
18 example, I don't even qualify for the -- what, the  
19 45,000 that is like at the lowest amount. And what I  
20 would like to see, if this was to pass, would -- would  
21 the income guideline be revised to factor in the  
22 increase in utilities?

23 MS. NOTTINGHAM: I just -- one thing I wanted  
24 to point out is that there will be more details in  
25 Staff's testimony 200. And, also, regarding any of

1 the income eligible discounts that Idaho Power will be  
2 offering, they currently do not have a program. So,  
3 that -- I'm not sure that will -- that -- what that  
4 impact will be. It's set in place to kind of help  
5 alleviate some of the pressure, the pricing pressure.  
6 And we'll also have some additional information  
7 available when we get more of the details on March  
8 25<sup>th</sup>.

9 So, I really strongly encourage following the  
10 docket and contacting the Consumer Services at the --  
11 on our web page we have our phone number, and we can  
12 look up some and guide you to where you can find some  
13 additional detail.

14 CHAIR DECKER: We also, Julie, your -- your  
15 question and part of what I was saying at the  
16 beginning is that -- as Melissa said -- our Staff will  
17 take that kind of question and say, okay, as we're  
18 engaging with the company and other participants in  
19 the rate case, on how the bill discount program is  
20 designed, you know, they're being informed by the  
21 questions that you're asking and we'll be able to  
22 incorporate those questions into the process of sort  
23 of figuring this out that we're just embarking on now.

24 JULIE: Okay.

25 CHAIR DECKER: So your question is very

1 valuable.

2 JULIE: Okay. Thank you for listening to my  
3 question.

4 ALJ MELLGREN: Thank you for your comment.

5 Is there anyone else who would like to provide  
6 comments this evening? Use the "raise your hand"  
7 function in Zoom in the reactions menu at the bottom  
8 of your screen, or you may need to click the "More"  
9 button to access that depending on what device you're  
10 using.

11 *(Pause)*

12 And seeing no further hands in the queue, we  
13 are going to leave the hearing open for the next 27  
14 minutes until 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time, or 6 p.m.  
15 Pacific Daylight Time to allow other people to join  
16 and provide comment. But at this time the  
17 Commissioners and Commission Staff will remain in the  
18 hearing, but will be turning off their cameras, and  
19 I'll periodically make announcements to invite people  
20 to continue to raise their hand and provide comment.

21 And so, again, if you'd like to provide  
22 comment, please raise your hand, otherwise we will be  
23 here in the background and allow other people to join  
24 and provide comment until 7 p.m. Mountain Daylight  
25 Time, 6 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. Thank you.

1                   (Pause from 18:34:09 to 18:41:20)

2                   ALJ MELLGREN:    Yes, we have a public comment.  
3                   Balbina, if you would like to unmute yourself, you are  
4                   welcome to provide your comment.

5                   BALBINA:     Thank you.  I -- my name is Balbina.  
6                   I work with the Community in Action with the Energy  
7                   Assistance Department.  I have noticed -- or I do see  
8                   many, you know, households with a fixed income with a  
9                   really -- most of them have a really high past due  
10                  balance, or they're just barely making it, and I just  
11                  feel that with this increase it would just put them in  
12                  a larger financial hardship.  And I know there was a  
13                  comment made about maybe the financial assistance or  
14                  the discount percentage program that, you know, many  
15                  might be able to qualify for, but I wonder if, you  
16                  know, the rate increase will go up, you'll have a  
17                  higher monthly payment or due -- due amount, but then  
18                  with that increase, I don't know if it will just put  
19                  them back where they were.

20                  Anyhow, I'm not sure, but I have noticed, you  
21                  know, many clients or customers say, "I'm barely  
22                  making it.  I have a plan on how much money goes to  
23                  where, and I just only have \$20 left for the month."

24                  So I just feel like they'll have a financial  
25                  hardship with this increase.

1 ALJ MELLGREN: Thank you very much for your  
2 comment. We really appreciate it.

3 So, again, just a reminder, if you'd like to  
4 provide comment please use the "raise your hand"  
5 function in Zoom. And we are going to go off camera,  
6 but we will be here and keep the hearing open until 7  
7 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time, or 6 p.m. Pacific  
8 Daylight Time. Thank you.

9 *(Pause from 18:43:29 to 18:56:12)*

10 ALJ MELLGREN: Just a reminder, if you would  
11 like to provide a public comment, or you've just  
12 arrived at the public comment hearing, the hearing is  
13 open for another four minutes. Please use the "raise  
14 your hand" feature if you would like to provide public  
15 comment this evening. Thank you.

16 *(Pause from 18:56:26 to 19:00:13)*

17 ALJ MELLGREN: Okay. Thank you everyone for  
18 your participation this evening. If there is anyone  
19 who would like to provide a final public comment, you  
20 can use your -- the "raise your hand" feature at this  
21 time.

22 And seeing no additional hands, I'd like to  
23 thank everyone for attending this evening, and I'd  
24 like to remind anyone who may have had difficulty  
25 connecting or was unable to provide comments tonight



1 that you may still submit written comments by mail or  
2 email to the Commission or by calling the Consumer  
3 Service Division. The details for how to submit  
4 comments are included in the notice for this hearing,  
5 and on the Commission's website, and if you have any  
6 questions about how to submit written comments you can  
7 also email the Commission's Administrative Hearings  
8 Division at PUC.hearings@PUC.oregon.gov for  
9 assistance. Again, that's PUC.hearings@PUC.oregon.gov  
10 for assistance.

11 Additionally, the Commission will conduct an  
12 in-person public comment hearing at the Four Rivers  
13 Cultural Center in Ontario, Oregon on Wednesday, March  
14 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 p.m. Mountain Daylight Time, 5 p.m.  
15 Pacific Daylight Time. More information about this  
16 event can be found on the Commission's website and in  
17 the UE 426 docket. You can also email  
18 PUC.hearings@PUC.oregon.gov for additional  
19 information.

20 The in-person public comment hearing will not  
21 be livestreamed, however, an audio recording of the  
22 proceedings will be available after the hearing.

23 Before we adjourn, I'll turn it back over to  
24 Chair Decker for any final remarks.

25 CHAIR DECKER: I just want to thank those who

1 make the public comment meeting possible. Thanks to  
2 our Staff and the folks who are here monitoring from  
3 the company. I appreciate that we are able to provide  
4 an opportunity for public comment, and we'll take into  
5 account what we heard this evening.

6 Commissioner Tawney, anything from you before  
7 we adjourn?

8 COMMISSIONER TAWNEY: I just pretty much echo  
9 your thanks, and look forward to visiting Ontario next  
10 week. *(inaudible - audio cuts out)* nice to see  
11 people.

12 ALJ MELLGREN: Thank you.

13 A recording of tonight's hearing will be  
14 available on the Commission's website shortly.

15 This concludes the public comment hearing in  
16 UE 426. We are adjourned.

17 **(End of Proceedings)**

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STATE OF OREGON        )  
                                  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF Linn        )

I, Jean Mueller, a Court Transcriber for the State of Oregon, do hereby certify that I transcribed the audio proceedings had upon the hearing of this cause, previously captioned herein; that I thereafter had reduced by typewriting the foregoing transcript; and that the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of the proceedings had upon the hearing of said cause, and of the whole thereof.

Dated: March 22, 2024.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Mueller  
Court Transcriber  
541-259-1139