



Idaho Water Policy Group, Inc.

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Future IRP Meetings

- Tuesday, September 11
- Wednesday, October 20
- Advisory Council Plant Tour
- Thursday, October 21
- Thursday, November 18
- Tuesday, December 21
- Thursday, January 20
- Thursday, February 17
- Thursday, March 24
- Thursday, April 21
- Tuesday, May 24
- Thursday, June 16

Meetings run from
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Idaho Power Integrated Resource Plan/Boise/August 18, 2010: On August 3rd the Idaho Public Utilities Commission accepted Idaho Power Company's (IPCO) 2009 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP); on August 18th the 2011 Advisory Committee met in Boise at company headquarters to review the goals, dates and planning criteria for the 2011 IRP.

Utility IRPs are updated every two years, but typically address a 20 year planning horizon. This IRP will outline the company's plan to acquire resources to meet retail customer needs between 2011 and 2030. For planning purposes, the company uses two key factors: available water supply and projected load. The planning criteria is based on 70th percentile water and load for average energy needs. But, for the more critical peak hour, the forecast criteria is set at 90th percentile water and 95th percentile for peak load.

At the onset of the 2011 IRP, IPCO highlighted the value of its demand reduction programs, especially to peak hour. Demand reduction shifted 260 to 270 megawatts off the summer peak on July 16th. Also critical to this planning cycle will be the completion of Langley Gulch in 2012 and expansion of Shoshone Falls in 2015; upgrading transmission via the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) project and Gateway West. Transmission allows better access to regional power surpluses.

New to this planning process is a small group collaboration discussion on topics that the company needs feedback on. August's topic was "Greenhouse Gases/Carbon Regulation". Advisory committee members, IPCO staff, and representatives from the public in attendance broke into small groups at lunch to discuss how to address carbon in load forecasting if, or when, Congress actually adopts GHG legislation and what that federal legislation might look like. The more likely scenario may be EPA trying to set emission limits, action that would probably be challenged in court on the technical merits of any specific rulemaking. The U.S. Supreme Court already validated the agency's authority to address carbon emissions via the Clean Air Act.

While the future of carbon may be literally up in the air, a federal Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) may be more realistic. Congressional action on either topic is probably dependent on the November elections and the state of the economy.

The company also announced that it is undertaking another wind integration study. With more wind on the system, this IRP gives the company the opportunity to check the findings of its previous study. Also new will be the addition of an hour at the end of each advisory committee meeting to discuss IPCO's local transmission Plan, its purpose, and planning cycle.