

## Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG)

February 09, 2022

### Present:

Anna Kim – Public Utilities Commission of Oregon

Alexa Sakolsky-Basquill – Office of Energy & Mineral Resources

Ben Otto – Idaho Conservation League

Connie Aschenbrenner – Idaho Power

Diego Rivas – Northwest Energy Coalition

Don Strickler – Simplot

Donn English – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Evie Scrivner – Community Action Partnership

Kevin Keyt – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Quentin Nesbitt – Idaho Power

Sid Erwin – Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association

Taylor Thomas – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Tina Jayaweera – Northwest Power & Conservation Council

Wil Gehl – City of Boise

### Not Present:

Jim Hall – WaFd Bank

Kacia Brockman – Public Utilities Commission of Oregon

Marissa Warren – Office of Energy & Mineral Resources

Nick Saven – Public Utilities Commission of Oregon

### Guest and Presenters\*:

Andee Morton – Idaho Power

Andrea Simmons – Idaho Power

Annie Meyer\* – Idaho Power

Becky Arte Howell – Idaho Power

Billie McWinn\* - Idaho Power

Chad Severson – Idaho Power

Callie Freeman – Idaho Power

Chellie Jensen\* - Idaho Power

Cheryl Paoli – Idaho Power

Chris Pollow – Idaho Power

Curtis Willis – Idaho Power

Dahl Bietz- Idaho Power

Denise Humphreys – Idaho Power

Jeff Rigby – Idaho Power

Kathy Yi – Idaho Power

Krista West – Idaho Power

Melissa Thom – Idaho Power

Michelle Toney – Idaho Power

Mindi Shodeen – Idaho Power

Quentin Nesbitt\* – Idaho Power

Rito Reynoso – Metro Community Services

Rosemary Curtin – Facilitator

Shelley Martin – Idaho Power

Sheree Wilhite – Idaho Power

Theresa Drake – Idaho Power

Todd Greenwell – Idaho Power

Tonja Dyke – Idaho Power

Zack Thompson – Idaho Power

### Note Takers:

Michelle Toney (Idaho Power) and Kathy Yi (Idaho Power)

**Meeting Facilitator: Rosemary Curtin**

**Virtual WEBEX Meeting Convened at 9:32 a.m. – Rosemary Curtin**

Rosemary opened the meeting.

New EEAG member introduction: Evie Scrivner, CEO Community Action Partnership Association of Idaho (CAPAI)

Quentin Nesbitt went over the agenda for today's meeting. There were no questions or comments on the November meeting notes.

### **9:39 a.m. Announcements**

Connie provided regulatory updates. She highlighted the positive order received in the 2020 DSM prudence case and the Commission's comments specifically acknowledging EEAG's ongoing participation.

Connie also provided a Demand Response (DR) filing update. The Oregon PUC approved the modifications, and the Company expects an Idaho PUC decision in the coming weeks.

There were no questions or comments.

### **9:45 a.m.-2021 Financials & Savings – Quentin**

Quentin presented preliminary year to date expenses on the Rider and Preliminary savings for all programs. The preliminary savings are down due to COVID. All DR programs are impacted by supply chain and labor issues making participation difficult. Equipment is hard to find/ship and with the new construction in Idaho, contractors are being pushed towards new construction instead of retrofitting old equipment. Quentin also provided an update on the evaluation efforts.

One member asked about DR program modifications and mentioned that they thought the Flex Peak program was the lowest cost per MW of savings of the three DR programs. Quentin answered that it has the highest incentive but is lower overall cost per kW because the program has the least administrative cost as there are no devices in the field. Therefore, there is not a need for maintenance or monitoring, unlike the Irrigation and A/C Cool Credit program where there are direct load control devices on customer equipment that need to be installed and maintained.

Another member asked about the process for evaluations when a program changes. Quentin responded that the company tries to do a process evaluation if there are significant changes on a program the next year and Idaho Power strives to do impact and process evaluations approximately every 3-5 years. For the DR programs the company does internal impact evaluations every year using the same methods as prior third-party evaluations, and in some cases the same calculation tools our evaluators created for their evaluation of the DR program.

### **9:57 a.m.-Residential Programs – Billie McWinn**

Billie presented the annual savings by program. She compared the savings and participation from 2020 to 2021 and stated that the reduction in year-over-year savings was mostly due to lighting and that COVID had very little impact on overall residential portfolio savings.

Billie provided an answer to an EEAG member's question from the November meeting about how the company handles code changes in relation to the Residential New Construction program. She shared that residential code updates went into effect in 2021. Program parameters and savings didn't change immediately to allow for homes that were already in the program pipeline. Program changes were implemented for projects rated after August of 2021, and builders were given ample notice. One member mentioned it would be good to see when this program is next evaluated and what builders did differently

under the new code versus the old. Quentin reindicated an impact evaluation for the residential new construction program is planned for 2023.

A member said builders don't see the savings, but it would be good to share that with the buyer. Billie responded that builders now receive a certificate for their participation in the program and the home gets a sticker showing the home was built more efficiently than code. One member mentioned that many homes are being built, and a bill is being proposed to set energy conservation codes back to 2018 levels. Still, there is not enough demand from consumers for energy efficient homes. The member questioned what the company can do to educate the buyer to demand a more efficient home.

Billie provided a Multifamily Savings Program update and reminded EEAG that the company would be holding virtual meetings to discuss cost-effectiveness options going forward, and that EEAG members were invited to attend. Billie provided a lighting update, highlighting the new buydown program that was launched in late December 2021. One member asked if the program was reaching corner stores like dollar stores, as low-income customers are being pushed to dollar stores where incandescent bulbs are sold. Billie responded that grocery and corner stores would be eligible for bulbs and fixtures.

Billie provided an update that in 2022 Welcome Kits will consist of four LED bulbs at 11 lumen/watt, and two LED night light fixtures.

Billie presented a proposed plan to end the Energy House Calls (EHC) program and move the cost-effective measure – duct sealing – into the Heating and Cooling Efficiency (HCE) program. Though manufactured homes aren't eligible in HCE currently, the company plans to open the eligibility up to manufactured homes in order to transition the duct sealing measure from EHC to HCE mid-year 2022.

One member questioned if there were potential savings for single and multi-family. Billie responded that the duct sealing measure is available for other home types through HCE. One member added that allowing the duct sealing measure in the HCE program was good but concerned that low-income customers have a more challenging time coming up with the out-of-pocket costs to participate.

Billie gave an overview of the Idaho WAQC program carry-over balance. She shared the company had explored the mitigation options that were brought up at the last meeting and highlighted the company's plan to focus on re-weatherizing homes that were less than 14 years old, in order to replace old HVAC systems with heat pumps. There was additional discussion about the 85/15 split, ideas to create a pipeline for HP installers, and questions about the need to put an end date of 2025 on the proposal.

### **11:14 a.m. Break**

### **11:20 a.m.-Meeting Reconvened – C&I&I Programs – Chellie Jensen**

Chellie presented the top ten highlights for the 2021 Year in Review, including program updates, savings, milestones, and staff changes. Chellie is excited to have Jeff, Andee, and Curtis join the Commercial, Industrial and Irrigation team. Chellie reviewed the total program savings for multiple years with a reminder of how some programs can have large swings, depending on the duration of the construction schedules and complexity of the project. The programs are on par with years prior to 2019. In 2019, retrofits and custom projects both had a big year. Looking at 2020, custom had an all-time highest savings due to a few large mega projects.

Chellie went through individual program performance for New Construction, Retrofits, and Custom and highlighted historical savings and participation for each. Chellie provided an update regarding the Small Business Direct Install (SBDI) which had 591 project installs from the programs start.

Chellie explained that Simplot invited the company to participate in an Energy and Sustainability Scan to support them in reaching their sustainability and energy efficiency goals. The site visit consisted of talking with personnel about equipment, operations, and improvement ideas. The company shared incentives, and future cohort participation then summarized energy-saving metrics and possible incentives to the customer.

One Member commented on the energy scan. They appreciate Idaho Power's support of the activity.

Chellie discussed the Commercial Energy Saving Kits, including the number of kits distributed in 2021. The new simplified kits are being finalized, and the company anticipates availability by mid-summer.

Chellie provided an update on SEM Cohorts. She thanked the EEAG members for their feedback in the November meeting and mentioned that the company is in the process of designing an industrial wastewater cohort and is gauging customer interest.

Chellie went through the Irrigation Efficiency program performance and highlighted historical savings and participation. One member questioned the Irrigation Menu program. They said pressure regulators seem to wear out faster than anything and mentioned the company might look at offering incentives for just the worn-out pressure regulators rather than the whole package. Quentin responded that the program had been that way in the past but when the Regional Technical Forum (RTF) reviewed the savings, they determined that the research did not support a way to keep the savings broken apart and separated for each item.

#### **11:48 a.m. Lunch**

#### **1:02 p.m.-Meeting Reconvened – Marketing – Annie Meyer**

Annie presented the Marketing Overview. She discussed the fall residential campaigns which ran on all major channels. Annie then talked about the company's marketing tactics – Sweepstakes and newsletters, including promotions on social media, email, My Account, and the homepage.

My Account recently re-vamped, and the company anticipates a higher visitor count. Annie points out My Account is excellent for marketing because the audience is already engaging with the company online. Pop-ups are currently for Heating/Cooling.

Annie went over what is new in 2022. The company will start delving into podcast advertising as things become more digital. She discussed continuing paid segments with KTVB and the addition of seasonal bill inserts and emails with relevant tips. Looking for sponsorships with smaller colleges and other opportunities.

On the Commercial/Industrial Annie discussed some changes in the irrigation efficiency print ad (bold text) and menu form updates (easier to read).

The My Account pop-up ads will promote the Retrofits program. Working on case studies for the webpages as well as customer testimonials. There will be a Chambers of Commerce newsletter ad for Eastern region and Boise metro chamber mailing list.

One member asked about what sponsorships for schools might look like. Annie mentioned it would be similar to College of Southern Idaho where they have a banner in the gym advertising energy efficiency.

### **1:15 p.m.-Wrap-up/Open Discussion – All**

No questions, just a comment about how the peak rewards program is coming through the Idaho Public Utility Commission.

Good meeting, thanks. I think we have gotten into the routine of doing these virtual pretty well, so thanks, everyone.

Great meeting. One question regarding marketing with My account popups. The website has more options of 'read more' and 'no thanks.' Do we track the clicks? Annie answered that the company tracks the clicks on the webpage.

Glad to be a part of the meeting. Shoutout to the marketing team. I feel like there's good visibility out there. I feel like I see Idaho Power everywhere. Glad to be part of the backend.

Thank you for the meeting today. Good information. I am looking forward to seeing a transition from suspended work and getting through the waitlists for the residential programs.

Good meeting. Just a reminder that we all know EE is important, but in the big picture, we tend to hear a lot about solar or greenhouse gas. Whatever we save, we don't have to build new resources. The basis of everything is energy efficiency.

I couldn't agree more with what the member just said. I appreciate the presentations everyone put together.

### **1:45 p.m.-Meeting Adjourned**