

# What's Going on With Rates? Here's What You Need to Know

If you're an Idaho Power customer living or working in Idaho, you may have noticed a few different announcements about Idaho rate changes lately. One brought a decrease, while others point to potential increases down the road. Here's a breakdown of what's happening and what it means for you.

## Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) Results in Rate Decrease

Idaho Power files the annual PCA every April with the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC). The PCA is a tool that adjusts your rates based on actual energy supply costs, passing along both savings and added expenses. Idaho Power requested a decrease of \$94.8 million across all Idaho customers. For irrigation customers, the average reduction was 5.87%. These changes went into effect on June 1, so you should already be seeing lower rates on your bill.

## Why Did PCA Rates Go Down?

One of the reasons is that because of back-to-back good water years, more energy is being generated from hydropower, Idaho Power's most affordable and reliable energy source. This reduces the need to buy more expensive power from the market.

## Looking Ahead: General Rate Case and Hells Canyon

While the PCA reflects annual cost changes associated with primarily variable expenses, Idaho Power also filed a general rate case on May 30 to review the overall costs of operating and maintaining our system and how those costs are allocated among customers.

For irrigation customers, the proposed increase is 17.32%, but actual rate changes are likely to differ after review and approval by the IPUC later this year. Additionally, Idaho Power made a filing with the IPUC related to the company's Hells Canyon Complex (HCC) requesting a 2% increase in irrigation rates.

Why now? Idaho Power is making major investments to upgrade infrastructure, meet growing customer demand, and continue providing the safe and reliable energy our customers expect. The IPUC will thoroughly review Idaho Power's requests over the coming months. If approved, new rates wouldn't go in effect until January 2026 at the earliest. As of the date of printing, the HCC increase is still under consideration.

## What It Means for You

Right now, irrigation customers are seeing lower rates, thanks to the June 1 PCA decrease. Looking ahead, the general rate case and Hells Canyon Complex filing aims to support a growing system ensuring your energy stays reliable. Idaho Power is committed to balancing affordability with the long-term investments needed to keep our grid strong for years to come.



*Thank you!*  
to our Irrigation Peak  
Rewards Participants


As of June 2, 2025, this program had:

**~2,700** service points  
enrolled, providing

**272** megawatts of  
demand reduction capacity

This capacity is 91% of the total generating capacity of our Langley Gulch natural gas power plant! Your participation helps avoid or delay the need for new resources.

Not enrolled this year?  
Visit [idahopower.com/irrigation](https://idahopower.com/irrigation)  
to learn more for next season.



# Breaking Down Your Bill: Demand vs. Energy Charges

If you've looked closely at your monthly power bill, you may have noticed a charge labeled "demand" alongside your regular energy charge. For many agricultural customers, this line item can raise questions— why it's there, what it pays for, and how it's calculated. Understanding the difference between demand and energy charges can help you make more informed decisions about your power use and even find ways to lower your bill.

## What can I do to reduce my demand charge?

To help reduce your peak demand, consider upgrading to low-pressure sprinklers with a lower horsepower pump system for long-term savings.

Idaho Power offers three energy efficiency programs to help irrigators improve performance and manage demand:

- **Custom Irrigation Program:** Individualized system evaluations and incentives for full-system upgrades.
- **Menu Irrigation Program:** Incentives for replacing specific components, such as worn or leaking sprinklers and parts, which may be increasing a system's flow rate, and therefore increasing system demand.
- **Green Motors Program:** Incentives to rewind motors and restore them to peak operating condition.

## So, what is a demand charge?

A demand charge is a fee based on the highest average amount of electricity (measured in kilowatts, or [kW]) you use over 15 minutes. This is typically your peak demand.

It's different from your energy charge, which is based on how much total electricity you use over the billing period (measured in kilowatt-hours, or [kWh]).

Idaho Power has a responsibility to meet the highest level of demand customers place on the system. That means we must build and maintain enough infrastructure such as power lines, transformers, and substations, to meet that customer demand. The demand charge helps recover the fixed cost of maintenance and new or upgraded equipment for transmission or the generation of electricity.

Demand Charge	Energy Charge
Based on the highest average 15-minute usage in the billing period	Based on total usage over the billing period
Measured in kW	Measured in kWh
Reflects grid infrastructure and capacity needs	Reflects fuel, generation, and delivery costs

## How is the demand charge calculated?

Demand is measured in kW and reflects the highest rate of energy use during a billing period. Idaho Power measures usage in 15-minute increments and the highest average 15-minute kW usage, or your peak demand, is what you're billed for in the demand portion of your bill. For example, if you run your 60 hp irrigation pump from 2 to 2:15 p.m., and it draws 48 kW during that time, even if your usage is zero the rest of the billing period, that 15-minute peak of 48 kW sets your demand charge.

The demand charge is applied only to in-season rates, which begin with the meter reading in May and end with September's billing cycle. During that time for Schedule 24 customers, the meter resets the demand and energy use for the next billing cycle at the start of the day (morning), 12:00 a.m. (0:00 Hour) on the read date. For more detailed information on demand read cycles and dates, please visit [idahopower.com/irrigation](https://idahopower.com/irrigation).

**Contact your Idaho Power agricultural representative or visit [idahopower.com/irrigation](https://idahopower.com/irrigation) for more information and assistance in reducing demand for your specific operation.**



# Staying Safe Around Power Lines on the Farm

As activity on the farm continues to ramp up with the summer season, it's a good time to pause and take stock of your surroundings, especially when it comes to electrical safety. Accidents involving power lines can be serious or even fatal, but a few key precautions can help keep everyone safe.



## Follow the 10-Foot Rule

Always keep yourself, your tools, and your equipment at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines rated at 50 kilovolts (kV) or below. That includes irrigation pipes, ladders, and tall equipment like combines or augers.

- Check for overhead lines before raising or moving pipes or cleaning out debris.
- Never stack hay bales or other materials beneath overhead power lines.

If the voltage of the line you are working near is higher than 50 kV, keep the following wider distances.

50 kV	to	200 kV	15 feet
200 kV	to	350 kV	20 feet
350 kV	to	500 kV	25 feet
500 kV	to	750 kV	35 feet
750 kV	to	1,000 kV	45 feet

Not sure about a line's voltage? Call Idaho Power at 208-388-2323. We'll help determine the voltage and ensure you're working safely.

If your equipment must operate within 10 feet of lines, you must consult Idaho Power about proper safety precautions before starting work. We can help determine the safest option.

## Use a Dedicated Spotter

When moving large trucks or machinery, always use a spotter to help maintain safe distances. The spotter's only focus should be guiding the operator and watching for hazards.

If you strike a pole or guy wire, call Idaho Power's Customer Service Center immediately at 208-388-2323 or 1-800-488-6151 (outside the Treasure Valley), as it may have weakened the structure or created slack in the line.

## Keep Water Away from Lines

Electricity travels easily through water and metal. Ensure pivot towers are clear of lines and that end guns aren't spraying water onto poles, wires, or electrical equipment.

Your commitment to safety makes all the difference. Idaho Power is here to help you have a safe and successful season.



## New Service Requests

Need to power a new irrigation pump? We've got you covered!

Before you submit a request for power, you'll want to make sure you know the answers to the following questions. Your irrigation dealer or electrician is a great resource for this important information:

- How many pivot towers do you need?
- How much horsepower do you need?
- What voltage level do you need?
- Is this a new connection or an upgrade to an existing connection?
- Where is the best place for the connection?
- Do you need three-phase or single-phase power?
- If three-phase isn't available, do you need phase-converting equipment?

Once you have that information in hand, fill out a service request on Idaho Power's website. Also talk to your Idaho Power ag rep about incentives for installing a more efficient system. An Idaho Power distribution designer will provide a cost estimate and a schedule for engineering your connection and connecting power to the pump. They will determine if there are any special circumstances or conditions such as easements, difficult terrain, or special permits.

After installation and once the pole and meter base pass state electrical inspection, you or your electrician will notify Idaho Power that the inspection is complete so we can connect your service. New requests are currently taking between 8 and 10 weeks to complete and may take longer depending on the complexity of the project, so it's important to plan ahead.

**For specific questions or more information, you can find your local ag rep's contact information at [idahopower.com/irrigation](http://idahopower.com/irrigation).**



# Successful Irrigation Seasons Start with Savvy Account Management



It's never been easier to manage your Idaho Power accounts, and we're here to help you keep your operation running smoothly. A big part of that is keeping your account in good standing, especially when it comes to on-time payments and understanding deposits.

## Paying on Time Matters

It helps to maintain a good payment history. It prevents late fees, deposits, disconnections, and service delays, which is especially important during the intense irrigation season. Past-due balances can delay or complicate setting up new pump services or reconnecting services in the spring.

## Why You Might Be Required to Pay a Deposit

Deposits are sometimes required when setting up new or reconnecting irrigation services. Deposits are based on past billing history and fall into two categories:

### Tier 1 Deposit

You may be asked to pay a Tier 1 deposit if:

- You have a new Tax ID Number or are a new irrigation rate customer.
- You were required to pay a Tier 2 deposit in the prior year.
- You received two or more payment reminder notices within a 12-month period (calendar year) on a single account.
- Your service was terminated for nonpayment during the last four years and have not subsequently received Schedule 24 service.

If a deposit is required, it will apply to all Schedule 24 irrigation accounts you're financially responsible for. The amount is typically about 1.5 times the average in-season bill for each service.

### Tier 2 Deposit

You may be required to pay a Tier 2 deposit if:

- You had a past-due balance of \$1,500 or more on Dec. 31.
- You had a past-due balance of \$1,500 or more on Dec. 31 in the last four years, and you haven't had an active irrigation (Schedule 24) account during that time.

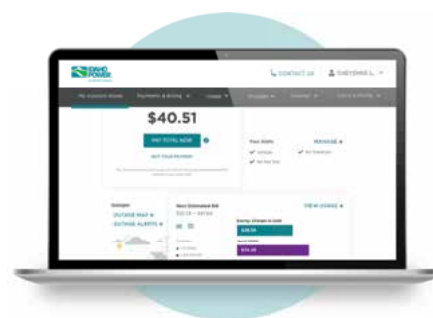
The Tier 2 deposit amount is typically about four times the average monthly in-season bill for each service.

The good news? Deposits are refundable and applied to the customer's account. Deposits also accrue interest during this time and are applied to a customer's account with the deposit. Interest rates are set year-to-year by the IPUC.

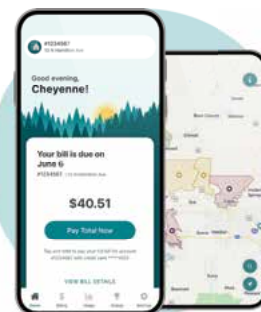
## Tools to Help You Stay on Track

Here are some free, easy options from Idaho Power to help manage your account:

**My Account** — View bills, track usage, set up Auto Pay, and go paperless.



**Text and Email Alerts** — Get reminders when your bill is due or past due. Sign up through My Account or by calling customer service.



Have questions or need help managing your irrigation account? We're here to support you, so you can focus on the season ahead. Contact your local ag rep or Customer Service at 208-388-2323 or 1-800-488-6151 (toll free).