

**Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG)**  
**Wednesday, February 8, 2023**  
**Idaho Power CHQ Auditorium**

**Present:**

Alexa Bouvier – Office of Energy & Mineral Resources  
Brad Heusinkveld – Idaho Conservation League  
Connie Aschenbrenner – Idaho Power  
Diego Rivas – Northwest Energy Coalition  
Don Strickler – Simplot  
Ken Robinette – Community in Action Partnership Association of Idaho

Jim Hall – WaFd Bank  
Quentin Nesbitt\* – Idaho Power  
Taylor Thomas – Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Tina Jayaweera – Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
Wil Gehl – City of Boise

**Not Present:**

Sid Erwin – Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association  
Nick Sayen – Public Utility Commission of Oregon

**Guest and Presenters\*:**

Andrea Simonsen – Idaho Power  
Annie Meyer\* – Idaho Power  
Billie McWinn\* - Idaho Power  
Cassie Cormier – WaFd Bank  
Chellie Jensen\* - Idaho Power  
Cheryl Paoli – Idaho Power  
Curtis Willis – Idaho Power  
Dahl Bietz – Idaho Power  
Denise Humphreys – Idaho Power  
Jason Talford – Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Jonathan Guynes – Idaho Power  
Julie Rosandick – Idaho Power  
Kathy Yi – Idaho Power

Kimberly Bakalars\* – Tetra Tech  
Krista West – Idaho Power  
Laura Conilogue – Idaho Public Utilities Commission  
Landon Barber – Idaho Power  
Mark Bergum\* – Tetra Tech  
Michelle Toney – Idaho Power  
Mindi Shodeen – Idaho Power  
Russ Weedon\* – Idaho Power  
Shelley Martin – Idaho Power  
Sheree Willhite – Idaho Power  
Theresa Drake – Idaho Power  
Todd Greenwell – Idaho Power  
Zack Thompson – Idaho Power

**Note Takers:** Michelle Toney and Kathy Yi – Idaho Power

**Meeting Facilitator:** Quentin Nesbitt

**9:35 A.M. Announcements—**Quentin Nesbitt

Quentin introduced a new member, Ken Robinette. Ken represents Community in Action Partnership Association of Idaho.

### **9:43 A.M. 2022 Financials & Savings—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin presented the overall preliminary savings and costs by sector and program for both EE and DR programs for 2022 and showed the history of prior years. He reviewed and updated the group on plans for future evaluations and noted the multifamily program ending, therefore the recommendation is to not evaluate that program in 2023.

#### Discussion

One member asked if future NEEA savings are included in the Potential Study savings used for the IRP. Quentin answered that they are included, however the Potential Study only considers “known” future codes or standards.

Another member asked what happened in 2013 regarding DR program numbers. Quentin said that at that time the IRP showed the company was surplus on resources. Therefore, the company filed with the commission requesting to suspend 2 of 3 DR programs for the summer of 2013. After holding workshops with interested parties, a settlement was reached to modify the programs starting the following program season, which was approved by the Idaho and Oregon Commissions.

A member pointed out that prior to 2013 there was more capacity in the programs. Quentin explained that in 2012 the incentives were higher and after 2013 the incentives were reduced. The drop in participation was related to the incentive reduction and the lack of marketing the programs.

One member asked if the SBDI impact evaluation turned out positive would Idaho Power change the plans to end the program. Quentin advised the contract is ending and the contractor will not move forward at the current price and a higher price is not cost-effective.

Another member asked if the DR programs will be evaluated externally in 2025 and wants to know the benefits between internal & external evaluations. Quentin answered yes and the benefit is making sure internal evaluations are in line with how an external party would evaluate the programs. Also in the past, third-party evaluators have produced tools as part of the evaluation that Idaho Power has used internally to conduct future review.

### **9:58 A.M. Residential Programs—Billie McWinn**

Billie presented the 2022 highlights, preliminary savings, and participation by program. She then provided specific updates for, Brio (marketplace transformation pilot), the potential Marketplace program, Multifamily, asked for specific feedback on AC Cool Credit marketing, and brought up the potential expansion of the AC Cool Credit program with a smart thermostat option.

#### Residential Program Savings

One member asked if Home Energy Audits and Weatherization savings were affected by COVID in 2022 as they are barely noticeable on the savings slide. Billie answered it is because these programs have smaller savings overall as compared to the larger programs.

Another member asked if Home Energy Audit program savings are low because of resource constraints due to COVID. Billie responded that the program has caught up with the pipeline of projects left from suspending in-home work during COVID, but the savings are still small.

The member asked why there was a savings increase in the Home Energy Reports program and a decrease in participation. Billie said that even as the participant count decreases due to attrition, the savings per home increases as people continue to get more reports, so the overall savings increases, however the company expects savings to stabilize now as the program is reaching maturation. Denise added that attrition is also sometimes a result of a customer opting out of the program, in which case they would stop getting the report but still be included in the overall savings.

One member asked about why Residential New Construction savings decreased while participation increased. Kathy said that new building code adoptions reduced the savings potential per home.

### Brio Market Transformation Pilot

There was discussion about the differences between NEEA and Brio. Billie indicated the main difference is in the target markets. For example, NEEA sees ductless heat pumps as an already-transformed market, but conditions are different in Idaho Power's service area. Idaho Power and Avista hired Brio to take a targeted approach in recognition of the unique conditions in Idaho. The member then asked about how the effort moves the market and how it is measured. Billie answered that the approach is like NEEAs, and a market baseline is established to measure actual sales changes. Quentin added that NEEA looked at the overall northwest regional market. Brio's focus is just on Idaho and is only a pilot. While like the approach NEEA uses, the pilot will determine if another approach could be more effective in Idaho.

Another member asked how the program is different. Billie said that it follows NEEAs model and works upstream. In this case, the primary work has been done with distributors involved in the market.

### Marketplace

One member asked how a Marketplace program works and if it is solely online. Billie explained the concept is that a Marketplace program would compare energy savings potential for products while potentially showing Idaho Power rebates. The member then asked about the timing of the new RFP. Billie said the RFP will be sent out soon.

Another member asked if it would drive participation to existing programs. Billie replied that this would be designed as a new program with incentives on products not currently offered. The member then asked if the savings were claimed and how free ridership is handled. Billie said the savings would be claimed based on deemed amounts and incentives would be set with free ridership in mind.

One member asked about the prior Marketplace RFP not meeting the original objectives. Billie replied that through developing the program with the selected vendor, it became clear there were objectives that could not be met.

### Multifamily

One member asked about savings opportunities for windows. Billie and Kathy indicated the savings from cooling are low due to the low number of cooling hours in the year. Currently, the summer hours are the highest value hours.

There was a question about whether there are other facilities that could have participated in the now-ended multifamily program. Billie indicated the market had been saturated.

One member asked about the proposed Multifamily program if the assumption for pools is that they have electric heating. Kathy responded that the assumption is the pool has some form of electric heat.

Another member asked about forecasted multifamily building stock, particularly with the percentage that will have electric heating and cooling. Billie responded there are not specific projections yet. The member then asked with the proposed Multifamily program, whether the incentives and the offering would be the same for gas or electric. Billie said the incentives would only be available on electric savings.

A member asked about the modeling of a facility's energy use going forward. Billie responded the company plans to use a deemed savings approach. Quentin said with New Construction it is not possible to compare it to what was there because it is new, whereas with retrofits you know what is there and you can calculate the difference.

Another member asked if the marketing will be targeted to property owners or tenants/residents. Billie answered for retrofits the company works with the owner/operator of the property. For new construction, the engagement is with developers/builders.

One member asked if low-e storm windows are included. Kathy indicated if the RTF had those numbers, those would have been relied on. The member pointed out the RTF focuses on low-rise multifamily facilities. Kathy said these numbers are a blend of both low-rise and high-rise. Under residential code, low-rise is 3 stories or less.

A member asked if self-installs will be considered for retrofits. Chellie answered that installs of certain measures would need to be in accordance with manufacture and industry standards as well as local code authorities. Some measures such as spa covers may be ok for self-installs.

#### AC Cool Credit

One questioned the lack of participation, noting that though the incentive is important it is lack of knowledge or fear that the home will get too hot, and likes offering a higher incentive. Billie clarified the company does not anticipate increasing the ongoing incentive, just offering a signup incentive for new participants.

Another member asked about the lifespan of AC Cool switches and if the company knows when they fail. Billie answered that the company is aware of them but has not seen an unreasonable number of failures. The member then asked whether the switch is transferred when someone gets a new AC unit. Billie said generally not, a contractor will reinstall the switch.

Another member asked about heat pumps eligibility. Mindi answered that the switches are not always compatible due to complicated control systems on heat pumps.

One member asked if heat pumps have lower savings. Quentin noted heat pumps have the same load in the summer as similar sized AC units.

Another member asked if the company knows how often a switch is updated on new units. Billie replied that the switch stays the same and is only updated if there is known failure.

One member asked what the need is behind extra marketing for AC Cool Credit. Billie answered that the intent is to increase the program capacity and that is achieved by increasing enrollment.

Another member asked if AC Cool Credit is just for electric homes. Billie responded no, but it is for summer air conditioning, which most gas heated homes have.

One member asked if there is a need for increased marketing. Billie said the company plans to keep up the marketing to grow the program and to keep up with natural attrition.

#### AC Cool Credit – Bring Your Own (smart) Thermostat Option (BYOT)

One member mentioned the DR potential study and how the potential study gave preference to AC Cool Credit potential and therefore the BYOT costs per kW from the study might not fully reflect actual cost assumptions. Quentin commented that this is one of the reasons the company issues a RFP.

#### **11:07 A.M. – Break**

#### **11:21 A.M. Commercial, Industrial, & Irrigation Programs—Chellie Jensen**

Chellie presented Commercial, Industrial and Irrigation 2022 highlights, preliminary participation, savings, and updates for each program.

#### Retrofits

One member asked why the kWh savings were up when projects were lower. Chellie answered that the difference is the size of the projects. There were less projects, but some large projects in 2022 caused the overall savings to be higher.

#### Custom Projects

One member asked if the company is marketing DR programs to those C&I customers that are participating in the custom projects. Chellie indicated the Customer Projects engineers to do combined customer assessments of EE & DR opportunities to help identify DR capabilities that customers may be overlooking.

#### Commercial Energy Saving Kits (CSK)

One member asked if CSKs were cost effective prior to the savings changes. Kathy responded the largest driver is the installation rates of items in the kits. Based on past survey results on those installations, the program appeared cost-effective, however the evaluation found those installation rates were lower. Also, with the lighting savings going away, cost-effectiveness will be a challenge.

Another member asked if the remaining kits will be distributed before June. Chellie answered the kits are produced as ordered and there is no backlog of inventory.

#### Campus Cohort

One member said this cohort is a good idea and that many college-aged students may be more responsive participants. Chellie said depending on which type of customers sign up, this can be like our school cohort where students are engaged.

Another member asked if multiple buildings must be in one area or can they be in different cities. Chellie stated this cohort is for where the buildings are in the same area.

### Flex Peak

One member then asked with the automated option for Flex Peak how the switches will function and if the company is looking to just turn off or to turn down equipment. Chellie answered that a signal is sent to the device to activate a relay, and it is up to the customer to control their systems. Some customers might integrate the switch to their system with software that initiates a customer's programmed load shed sequence.

Another member asked how participants who might participate in the automatic Flex Peak program will differ from irrigation customers. Chellie said that while the device is the same, primarily the incentive structure, baseline and some of the program parameters are different.

### **12:08 P.M. – Lunch**

### **12:46 P.M. Marketing—Annie Meyer**

Annie presented an overview of program marketing. She went over marketing information that has gone out to customers including bill inserts, DR marketing, winter contest, EE tips, what is new in 2023, and what is coming soon (Good Energy).

### **1:00 P.M. C&I New Construction and Retrofits Evaluations—Tetra Tech, Kimberly Bakalars and Mark Bergum**

Kimberly presented the C&I Energy Efficiency Retrofits and New Construction program process evaluation. She discussed program background, market actors, evaluation methodology, process results, and recommendations

Mark presented the C&I Energy Efficiency Retrofits and New Construction program options impact evaluation results and discussed the recommendations by program option. He then wrapped up his presentation with comments on the expected future reduction in lighting savings due to updated codes.

### Impact Evaluation New Construction

One member had a question on how baseline code years are selected for each project for the New Construction Program option. Mark answered that that the code used is based on the official building code in place at the beginning of that project's design. The member then asked how the company would move forward or what would happen to the program if the state reduced or removed the code. Quentin answered that this program looks at how far a building exceeds code, if such a code reduction were to happen the company would likely still draw a line that represents the code. The member asked if codes regress, would the company keep the 2018 standards. Quentin said the company would evaluate what to do if that happened. Mark added that other states implement new construction programs where codes are different, and just make their program standards above the code.

### **1:40 P.M. Education & Outreach with Customers—Russ Weedon**

Russ Weedon discussed how Idaho Power engages communities highlighting what the Education and Outreach Energy Advisors roles are. He showed how the team is connecting with the community through energy education with presentations at schools, organizations, and other event participation.

#### Discussion

One member asked about Idaho Power's clean energy goals. Russ stated the decision for the 2045 goal is broad and will require technological changes to make the goal attainable.

### **2:12 P.M. Wrap-up/Open Discussion**

Member Comments:

The presentations were interesting. Excited to see how things are changing with lighting going away.

Thank you for all your hard work and pushing through these dynamic times. I am looking forward to seeing how things you are working on turn out.

I appreciate everyone's time. It is good to see everyone and meet in person.

It is so nice to be back in person. It feels good to be in a room with people who care. This meeting took time, hard work, with one thing in mind, Idaho Power customers.

I have a huge amount of appreciation for doing things in person you are always easy to work with. Glad to see the presentations. In-person meetings are better, thank you.

It is great to be back. It is so hard for me to do these meetings virtually. We're using those incentives for lighting. It is neat what you are doing in schools.

I enjoy in-person meetings, it is good to be back. I would encourage you to think about greenhouse gases and what impact EE has on that as we get into renewables. Renewables are a dream for everyone.

Sorry I am not there in person. Thank you for accommodating us who are virtual.

We enjoy Idaho Powers quarterly updates its helpful to our operations.

I encourage meetings to be in person. There's better dialog and the level of participation is higher.

Quentin mentioned the plan for the rest of the 2023 meetings are to be virtual. However, we are open to changing that. Our next meeting is May 10<sup>th</sup>. We had lots of discussion and Idaho Power appreciates the dialogue and questions. We find value in the in-person meetings, but we do have people out of the area. It is not easy for Oregon staff to travel so it is nice to try and find balance.

### **2:19 P.M. Meeting Adjourned**

