

## Oregon Energy Efficiency Advisory Group Meeting November 21, 2024

### Present (in Person)

Connie Aschenbrenner – Idaho Power  
Brent Stanger – Grant 4D Farms  
Quentin Nesbitt – Idaho Power  
Judge Dan Joyce – Malheur County  
Commissioner  
Lindsay Grosvenor – Oregon Food Bank  
Southeast Oregon Services

### Present (Virtual)

Amanda Welch – Oregon Department of  
Energy  
Benedikt Springer – Oregon Public Utilities  
Commission  
Dan Elliot – Oregon Housing & Community  
Services  
Joe Hayes – Community Connection of NE  
Oregon, Inc

### Not Present

Mark Clagett – Ashgrove Cement  
Stephan Crow – Salon Salon and Spa

### Guest & Presenters\*

Andee Morton – Idaho Power  
Annie Meyer – Idaho Power  
Becky Arte Howell – Idaho Power  
Ben Hemson – Idaho Power  
Billie McWinn\* – Idaho Power  
Chellie Jensen\* – Idaho Power  
Cheryl Paoli – Idaho Power  
Chris Pollow – Idaho Power  
Dahl Bietz – Idaho Power  
Jeff Rigby – Idaho Power  
Jordyn Neerdaels – Idaho Power  
Julie Rosandick – Idaho Power  
Landon Barber – Idaho Power

Mary Alice Taylor – Idaho Power  
Matt O’Conner – Idaho Power  
Melissa Thom\* – Idaho Power  
Michelle Toney – Idaho Power  
Mindi Shodeen – Idaho Power  
Nathan Black – Idaho Power  
Nick Sayen – Oregon Public Utilities  
Commission  
Nicholas Ackerman – Idaho Power  
Ray Short – Idaho Power  
Shelley Martin – Idaho Power  
Sheree Willhite – Idaho Power  
Todd Greenwell – Idaho Power

**Note Taker** Michelle Toney

**Meeting Facilitator** Quentin Nesbitt

### **10:03 A.M. Welcome & Announcements—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin started the meeting with introductions from the Oregon Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (OEEAG) members. This was a hybrid meeting both in person and virtual via TEAMS.

### **10:26 A.M. Benefits of Energy Efficiency and Demand Response—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin provided an overview of Idaho Power’s service area and discussed why the company works on energy efficiency (EE) with our customers and the purpose of demand response (DR). He then discussed the benefits of both.

#### **Discussion**

There were no questions or comments.

### **10:34 A.M. Oregon Governance—Connie Aschenbrenner**

Connie provided an overview of the state regulatory compacts, which included a brief overview of the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) and what the OPUC regulates. She discussed what the company’s tariff is, how the company requests changes with the OPUC, and the structure under which the OPUC makes decisions. Connie then presented how Demand Side Management (DSM) programs are funded and discussed certain OPUC guidelines related to cost-effectiveness.

#### **Discussion**

One member inquired about the date Les Perkins started working for the OPUC. Connie answered that Les Perkins joined the OPUC in January 2024.

### **10:47 A.M. Program Lifecycle—Billie McWinn**

Billie described the lifecycle stages of energy efficiency and demand response programs, and provided education on program cost-effectiveness (CE), including the three main CE tests, and then provided details on the primary CE test in Oregon, the Total Resource Cost (TRC). Billie

described the company's transparency in reporting, which included an overview of the DSM Annual Report.

## **Discussion**

### Reporting

One member asked about when the report is filed. Billie answered that the reports are filed annually: April in Oregon and March in Idaho.

## **11:10 A.M. – Break**

### **11:17 A.M. Residential Programs—Billie McWinn**

Billie presented on the residential programs in Oregon and discussed the programs that are coming soon. She described the differences between the types of DSM programs, which include incentives, giveaways, services, behavioral, and demand response programs. She discussed customer participation in each jurisdiction, savings, offerings, and qualifications for each residential program. Billie explained what the measures are and went over the incentive structure under each program.

## **Discussion**

### Home Energy Report (HER)

One member asked about Oregon not been included in the HERs. Billie answered that the HER program started as a pilot in Idaho. She explained that in 2020, the company explored adding Oregon customers but because the vendor required at least 25K customers to create a valid sized treatment and control group, and there were only 14K Idaho Power residential customers in Oregon, it was determined by the vendor that Oregon customers could not be added to the program. The company now has a new vendor with the capability to include Oregon customers by creating one new treatment group that includes both Idaho and Oregon customers.

Another member asked if the program is still a pilot program. Billie said the pilot ended in 2020 and was expanded into a regular program at that time.

### A/C Cool Credit (ACCC) & Heating and Cooling (H&C)

One member asked about the lower participation showing for the Heating & Cooling Efficiency Program. Billie answered that the decline in participation can be mainly attributed to a couple measures. She explained how customer participation in the smart thermostats measure declined when the incentive was reduced from \$75 to \$50 last year to keep the measure cost-effective. Even though smart thermostats are not huge savers compared to the other measures, because of the volume of participation in that measure compared to the other measures, it did have an impact on the overall decline in savings. She added that participation in the electric forced-air furnace to air source heat pump incentive is also down because air source heat pumps are a high-dollar item and are often financed, so the company speculates that a combination of high loan interest rates and high inflation costs could be contributing to the decline.

Another member asked if there were any issues with customers participating in both the energy efficiency smart thermostat program to receive the incentive and the bill credit for the demand response bring-your-own-thermostat (BYOT) program. Billie answered that having both incentives is a great opportunity to market smart thermostats because you are still receiving the energy efficiency benefits that are incented through H&C as well as the demand reduction that is incented thru ACCC. The company sees it as an opportunity to potentially boost participation for the smart thermostat energy efficiency incentive by marketing them both together.

Another member commented on how the drop in smart thermostat participation could be because the early adopters already participated and therefore participation could be leveling out and stabilizing as the market transforms. Billie replied that the company has considered that as a contributing factor to the decline.

## **11:45 P.M. – Lunch**

## **12:30 A.M. Commercial, Industrial, Irrigation & Demand Response Programs—Chellie Jensen**

Chellie presented an overview of the Commercial, Industrial, and Irrigation Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Programs. She discussed each program in detail including each of the program measures, incentives, savings, offerings, qualifications, and proposed changes.

## Discussion

### Retrofits - Lighting

One member inquired about the lighting measure incentive and asked how the incentive is calculated. Chellie answered that, if customer replaces a 100-Watt HID lamp with a 20-Watt LED lamp the incentive for the new lamp is based on the watt reduction multiplied by the incentive level listed. The incentive measures in the table that are based on kWh saved calculate the wattage reduction converted to kilowatts, and then multiplied by the operating hours to calculate the total kWh saved. The result of this calculation is then multiplied by the incentive level listed to calculate the total incentive for each item. The Lighting tool automatically calculates the incentives, and the lighting contractors are trained on how to use the tool.

### Retrofits- non-lighting

#### HVAC

One member had a positive comment on the savings for the motors on fans for potato and onion storage sheds. The member stated that adding variable speed drives is phenomenal and the product quality in storage is increased.

### Building Shell

One member asked about the incentive for building shell measures and how it is calculated. Chellie answered that the incentive is paid on a per unit basis.

### Custom Case Study

One member asked about the incremental cost and savings and what does it mean. Chellie answered that the company looks at the cost and energy that a standard measure uses as compared to the lower energy and higher cost of the energy efficiency option. She added that the difference in energy is the incremental energy savings and the difference in cost is the incremental cost.

### Flex Peak

One member asked about the counties in the Oregon service area where the MW savings are found for Flex Peak. Quentin answered that the company serves customers in Malheur, Baker, and Harney counties.

## Irrigation

### Menu

One member asked about the proposed changes in Menu, and if those changes are effective in Idaho and Oregon, and when is the effective date compared to when the product is purchased and installed. Chellie answered that if approved by the OPUC as filed, the new incentive rates will apply January 1, 2025. Customers who purchase and install the equipment after that 2025 effective date have one year, from the invoice date, to submit the application and invoices as proof of payment.

### Irrigation Custom

One member asked about how the incentives and the savings are determined for a new irrigation system. Chellie answered that the savings are calculated based on incremental savings as compared to the industry standard baseline. She added that eligible cost is based on 10% of the total project cost.

### Green Motors

One member commented that in their operation they rewind motors above 30 HP.

### Peak Rewards

One member asked if the variable incentive payment is paid out after the 4<sup>th</sup> event under the current program. Chellie answered that the company currently pays the variable incentive after the 4<sup>th</sup> event.

## **1:42 P.M. Marketing—Melissa Thom**

Melissa introduced the Corporate Communications team and where they are located. She presented on the marketing mission, the approach to market energy efficiency, tactics, and support for each sector. Melissa then showed two residential energy efficiency commercials, irrigation printed and emailed ads, and residential and irrigation newsletters highlighting the company's Agricultural Representatives.

## Discussion

One member added a positive comment about the commercials and asked about how much money was spent on them. Billie said she would have Melissa connect with the member to share more details.

Melissa shared to the group about one commercial receiving a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award in an ESource contest that received over 100 entries for Energy Efficiency and Demand Response commercials.

One member commented about a character in a previous energy efficiency ad and that the name was tied directly to the company and liked the connection to energy. The member added that the ads Idaho Power produces really work.

## 2:45 P.M. Wrap-up/Open Discussion

Quentin advised that there will be two of these meetings per year. He welcomed comments and feedback, specifically on whether the company should continue to do an in-person meeting, a hybrid option, or meet solely virtual.

Thank you for the meeting, it was great, and I appreciate the time. I prefer virtual as I don't live in Oregon, but I might have some staff that could attend. I want our presence to be here, and I know it's easier and more helpful to interact when you are in person. I had some great takeaways, and we will be reaching out for more information. We are trying to have good communication with the company's agricultural representatives and work more with irrigation consumers, but it has been difficult to reach our rural customers. In the eastern part of the state, we are interested in talking about generating leads based on your experiences. I appreciated the overview on the Oregon Governance. I'm still new to Oregon, and I am looking forward to working with you.

I do appreciate the training and the education on the programs that are offered. It is nice to see how the programs have been received and how they are working. I always prefer to meet in person, but there are a lot of members not here. Maybe the virtual meetings are better. It is obvious that some people have scheduling and travel conflicts.

I thank the company for presenting the information specific to Oregon. It makes it easier to follow. We will participate virtually.

It was informative, and it created a baseline of understanding about where the programs are at and what elements you have achieved as a utility. The marketing was great to end on. I appreciate the time and the effort and money that was put together by the team went into this meeting. I look forward to the next meeting and we will roll up our sleeves and help in any way possible on what you want to focus on. I appreciate the opportunity and I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

I would echo what the other members had said. I had no idea the depth of the efforts being made to educate the community on energy efficiency. Very impressive efforts and I was glad to be a part of it. Thank you. While I would prefer to meet in person, staffing resource constraints make it challenging to attend and for now I can only commit to virtual meetings.

I appreciate the information that was shared today. I learned a lot and I am looking forward to new opportunities to provide additional input. I prefer in person meetings, but I am open to either option. I understand other members have travel constraints.

Quentin said future meetings will be like this one, and we will continue to report on how programs are doing and highlighting areas where we are making decisions and where we need feedback.

Connie added that it was nice to get to meet those who I haven't met yet and to see some familiar faces. We look forward to future discussions and value your input. Thank you for agreeing to participate.

### **3:05 P.M. Meeting Adjourned**