

# Energy Efficiency Advisory Group Meeting May 23, 2024

## Present / Virtual\*

Benedikt Springer\* – Public Utilities Commission of Oregon

Brad Heusinkveld – Idaho Conservation League

Connie Aschenbrenner – Idaho Power

Christian Douglass\* - Northwest Power & Conservation Council

Diego Rivas\* – Northwest Energy Coalition

Emily Her\* – Office of Energy and Mineral Resources

Ken Robinette – South Central Community Action Partnership

Quentin Nesbitt – Idaho Power

Jason Talford – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Steve Hubble – City of Boise Public Works

## Not Present

Don Strickler – J.R. Simplot

Jim Hall – WaFd Bank

Taylor Thomas - Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Sidney Irwin – Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association

## Guest & Presenters\*\*

Andee Morton – Idaho Power

Annie Meyer – Idaho Power

Becky Arte Howell – Idaho Power

Billie McWinn\*\* – Idaho Power

Chellie Jensen\*\* – Idaho Power

Cheryl Paoli – Idaho Power

Chris Pollow – Idaho Power

Dahl Bietz – Idaho Power

Damon Woods\*\* – IDL

Farnaz Nazari – IDL

Jared Hansen – Idaho Power

Jeff Rigby – Idaho Power

Jonathon Guynes – Idaho Power

John Chatburn – Chat Burn Strategies

Jordyn Neerdaels – Idaho Power

Jordan Prassinos – Idaho Power

Julie Rosandick\*\* – Idaho Power

Kathy Yi\*\* – Idaho Power

Kimberly Bakalars – Tetra Tech

Landon Barber\*\* – Idaho Power

Laura Conilogue – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Mark Bergum\*\* – Tetra Tech

Melissa Thom – Idaho Power

Michelle Toney – Idaho Power

Mindi Shodeen – Idaho Power

Nathan Black – Idaho Power

Ray Short – Idaho Power

Shelley Martin – Idaho Power

Sheree Willhite – Idaho Power

Todd Greenwell – Idaho Power

Will Seaman – Idaho Power

Zack Thompson – Idaho Power

## **Note Takers**

Michelle Toney with Kathy Yi

## **Meeting Facilitator**

Quentin Nesbitt

### **9:30 A.M. Welcome & Announcements—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin welcomed new member Christian Douglass with the Northwest Power Conservation Council and Steve Hubble representing the City of Boise.

Quentin asked if members had any comments regarding or edits to the notes from the last EEAG meeting. A member commented they find the notes helpful.

Connie mentioned an outcome of the pending settlement in the Oregon general rate case will result in holding separate EEAG meetings for a broader group of Oregon stakeholders. She noted that there will be two meetings a year and suggested letting us know if anyone is interested in being involved.

There was a question on the Oregon EEAG meeting about if there will be a virtual option and the dates of the meetings. Quentin answered that EEAG meetings are public and will have a virtual option. Connie added that the meetings are expected to begin as early as this fall.

### **9:40 A.M. 2024 YTD Financials & Savings—Quentin Nesbitt**

Quentin presented the preliminary first quarter 2024 Energy Efficiency (EE) and Demand Response (DR) financials, savings, and expenses. He then reviewed overall expenses by category and sector then went over the 2025 evaluation plans.

#### **Discussion**

One member asked why the AC Cool Credit and Irrigation Peak Reward program expenses were in the negative. Quentin answered that the company purchased a large number of DR devices for all three programs, and they were all charged originally to the AC Cool Credit and Peak Reward programs and the negative is result of moving the expenses to an overhead account. The plan is that each program will get charged as the devices get used.

Another member asked whether changing the accounting for the Weatherization Assistance for Qualified Customers (WAQC) program to the Energy Efficiency Rider (Rider) affects the reporting. Quentin answered that all the information for both WAQC and Solutions is in the DSM report. The only change was the accounting for expenses.

One member asked if the Rider funding will continue to increase per year and if the Idaho labor-related expenses being removed from the Rider affects the balance. Quentin said that it is a balancing account and gets adjusted with a filing to the respective PUC and with the labor

change there was an adjustment made to the percentage. Connie added that the funding level is monitored and adjusted as needed. The member then asked about the YTD 2024 funding and projected balance for the end of the year. Quentin and Connie clarified the Idaho balance has recently been growing, but a forecast of year-end funding has not been done at this time.

## **9:50 A.M. Residential Programs—Billie McWinn**

Billie presented the 2024 residential program first quarter savings, participation, highlights for each of the programs, and specific updates for the Home Energy Reports, AC Cool Credit, and Shade Tree programs.

Kathy presented the Shade Tree cost-effectiveness review.

Julie presented the new Corp Comm marketing campaign.

### **Discussion**

#### WAQC

There was a discussion among the members about how the funding for CAP agencies works. One member answered that the funding is spread out across the projects and comes from different funding sources. The admin costs are separate from the production costs, and there is material inventory control and shipping that can affect timing of projects.

Cheryl added that the production costs are for materials, equipment, and include health and safety measures, but do not include admin costs.

A member added that there is an impact study looking at the cost ratio for health and safety measures. They will be looking at these measures versus total project costs and that jobs are impacted by the indoor air quality. The member added that agencies across the nation are starting to offer higher wages and better benefits. However, the Department of Energy (DOE) has strict certification standards and that is a nationwide issue. Agencies are now working with DOE on a the legislative side at the national level, trying to get the average cost covered for the labor.

#### Shade Tree

A member commented that just recently they were performing weatherization on a home and the customer had just received two trees from the program.

#### HER New Template

One member commented that the changes are aesthetically better but was concerned that the new version was missing a pie chart showing the percent of energy being used and the

associated cost. Billie agreed that it was a compelling visual and explained that there were limitations to all the vendor templates, and that was one of the features that could not be made available with the new vendor template. The member would like the company to share feedback with the new vendor and Billie committed to that follow-up.

Another member asked if the company could influence the report and if the tips and links are generic or can they be tailored to the customer. Billie responded that the first two energy savings tips on the front of the new template are tailored to the customer based on available home profile data, and the tips are more customized depending on whether the customer completes their home profile updates in My Account. The company develops the information on the second page of the report and can include program information or other generic tips and information.

A member inquired about how many customers might be added to the treatment group to start a new wave of participation. Billie said the vendor recommends 25,000 customers as a minimum to have proper integrity of the treatment and control groups.

One member asked how many customers are not part of the treatment or control groups. Billie answered that she did not have that number but would follow up with the member.

Another member asked if Oregon was included in those groups. Billie replied that the industry standard calls for at least 25,000 customers in the control and treatment group, however the company only has about 14,000 residential customers in Oregon. Therefore, Oregon has been excluded from previous treatment groups. She added that the company is working with a third-party program consultant and the new vendor to identify ways to capture and report the savings specific to Oregon using similarly situated service areas in Idaho for comparisons.

Billie followed up with an email to the member stating that from the time the last treatment group was selected there were 207,322 Idaho customers and 13,712 Oregon customers that were not in either group. Below are the reasons customers would be excluded from both the control and treatment groups.

Customer Group	Reason for Exclusion
Oregon accounts	Insufficient # customers for analyzing and reporting Oregon-specific savings
Customers not on AMI	AMI is required for reporting and evaluation

Customers without sufficient history	At least 12 months active history is required for reporting and comparison purposes
Customer that have “do not contact” flags on account	Customers have specifically requested not to be contacted by Idaho Power
Households that have “Non-English” flags on account	HERs are only available in English
Net Metering and Master Metered Accounts	Insufficient comparable data
Homes built prior to 1860, or more than 6 bathrooms, or more than 8 bedrooms, homes with less than 350 s.f. and homes with more than 7,000 s.f.	Insufficient comparable data
Barns, shops, garages, wells, pumps, etc.	Insufficient comparable data
Manufactured homes	Insufficient comparable data
Duplicate accounts	N/A

## Marketing

One member commented that all the campaigns are well done.

## **10:38 A.M. – Break**

## **10:46 A.M. Commercial, Industrial, & Irrigation Programs—Chellie Jensen**

Chellie presented the Commercial, Industrial and Irrigation Program performance, preseason activities, and program overviews with preliminary first quarter savings.

### **Discussion**

#### Irrigation Peak Rewards

One member inquired about the participation per region. Chellie replied that there is generally more participation in the eastern region.

Another member said it was good to see the upward trend, then asked if there is potential in any other areas. Chellie answered that the company markets to all irrigation customers each

year, but the changes to the program hours to later event times, to match Idaho Power system needs, caused a drop in participation. Therefore, timing can be an issue for some customers in that turning systems back on after 9:00 p.m. may not be conducive to their operations. She added that participation also varies with the crop, and farmers commonly change the crop annually. Quentin added that even the small climate difference in eastern Idaho can make the program more viable for those participants. Another factor includes how automated the customer's system is as Idaho power also saw a decline in participation with larger operations that depend more on labor to manage the systems during events.

One member asked about the automation technology. Quentin answered that it is difficult to collect data, but auto restart has always been something that has been considered. He stated the technology is not the barrier, it is the type of irrigation system that is usually the barrier.

### New Construction

One member asked about the timing of claimed savings if the project started in 2023 but ends in 2024. Chellie answered that the projects are paid, and savings recorded after the project is completed and all information is submitted.

Another member asked about the project counts being down and wondered about future projects. Chellie answered that the numbers represent what has been paid year-to-date. She added there are about three hundred projects in the pipeline, but those are not included in the information shown.

### Retrofits

One member asked about the proposed incentive to the trade allies and its effects to the program cost effectiveness. Chellie answered that we have looked at it and as long it is a small percentage with a cap, the program would still be cost effective.

Another member asked about the difference in percentages for the contractor incentive (5% vs 10%). Chellie replied the 5% could be a starting point to see if that moves the market. There was a comment about how it seems like a good idea to start at 5%.

### Custom Projects

- Engaged Customer Highlight Boise School District

One member asked about who at Idaho Power is working with the schools. Chellie answered Chris Pollow is the program engineer that works on the program.

## **11:18 A.M. Evaluations—Tetra Tech-- Mark Bergum**

Mark presented on the impact evaluation results for the Irrigation Efficiency and Residential New Construction programs. He discussed the overview of the programs and the evaluation methodology. Mark reviewed the previous evaluation and the results and findings.

### **Discussion**

One member asked about irrigation end guns. Mark explained end guns are on center pivot irrigation systems to irrigate some of the land in the corners of the fields.

Another member asked about the irrigation evaluation having billing analysis of savings versus modeling. Mark answered the post consumption was not relied on in the evaluation due to conditions changing year to year. He pointed out that even though weather can be somewhat normalized, with crop changes and weather changes combined, it is hard to evaluate using a billing analysis.

One member asked for a clarification of what is being tracked on the Residential New Construction program: savings, or actual consumption. Mark replied that the realization rate is a verification that the model results matched the claimed savings. This evaluation wasn't evaluating the actual energy consumption for the unit that was built.

Another member asked about what the 90/10 meant that Mark mentioned. Quentin answered that the company requests a statistical 90/10 confidence level which guides the size of the sample needed to evaluate to be confident in the total program results.

## **12:00 P.M. – Lunch**

## **1:00 P.M. 2024 Energy Efficiency Potential Study—Landon Barber**

Landon presented an overview of the Energy Efficiency (EE) Potential Study, including how it is used in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process, and a progress update on the current study that is underway.

### **Discussion**

One member asked if solar and wind resources were considered in the Potential Study. Landon replied that solar and wind are resources analyzed as part of the broader IRP. He explained that all cost-effective energy efficiency is reduced from the load forecast because the cost effectiveness has already been screened. Quentin added that other resources are evaluated through modeling and energy efficiency is used from the potential study, and it deducts from the load forecast. The member then asked if there will be an invite to the August IRP EE subcommittee meeting. Quentin said yes.

Another member asked about the number of measures that fell into the economic and achievable category. Landon reminded everyone that this is a general overview, and those specific numbers aren't available yet.

Another member asked about the measures that were mentioned. Landon answered that the two measures were examples of relevant emerging technology that is going to be analyzed.

The member then asked if the Aurora model was used to develop the potential study. Landon responded that Loadmap is the software our third-party consultant uses for the potential study, and Aurora is used for modeling resources in the IRP. He added that the Loadmap software uses multiple scenarios to calculate different assumptions for each sector. The member asked about the cost effectiveness timetable for measures. Landon advised the calculations are done yearly and the model accounts for if the measures are deemed to be cost effective or not.

## **1:20 P.M. Integrated Design Lab (IDL)—Damon Woods**

Damon introduced himself and his colleague, Farnaz Nazari. He then explained what the IDL does and how they support Idaho Power's energy efficient efforts in education and training. Damon also discussed the role of the Energy Resource Library (ERL) and EE building design.

### **Discussion**

One member asked about door blasters & blowers. Damon answered that the IDL does not have those in the ERL and typically they are used for residential.

Another member asked about the annual reach of tool loans. Damon said it's in the dozens and varies per year.

One member asked if the tools are available for anyone. Damon answered that any Idaho Power customer can check out the tools if they are willing to sign the release.

There was a question about the approximate cost of design assistance projects, like the window design using 3-D software. Damon said the consulting for that project was between \$3,000 and \$4,000. The member also asked where Idaho Power accounts for the cost of the IDL work. Quentin answered that IDL cost is paid from the Rider. Sheree Willhite added that it is split between the C&I New Construction, Retrofits and Custom Projects offerings and is not tied to specific energy savings.

Another member asked if all the measures from a design are adopted. Damon responded that not all measures are adopted. The member then asked if assistance was available for hotels. Damon answered yes and handed out brochures for several different commercial building types that show examples of energy efficiency savings and non-energy benefits.



One member asked if the IDL worked with any DOE national labs when creating a modeling project. Damon answered that they use a lot of DOE information and Pacific Northwest National Lab has a lot of standard energy models that they work with. He added that they occasionally work with Idaho National Lab and their Center for Advanced Energy Studies and have a large project going on that is funded by the Department of Commerce, and they have done work with Oakridge National Lab.

A member asked about bonding agents that IDL is using in its wood printing project. Damon said that is proprietary right now.

Another member mentioned that Boise City is fortunate to be working with the IDL.

One member asked about the expansion of the IDL and its future. Damon addressed the importance of Farnaz Nazari and his (small) team's contributions. He added that expansion is dependent on grants and ideally long-term grants which would really drive a larger number of students they can support. Their goal is to do a few large projects as well.

Another member asked if Idaho Power's energy advisors provide design assistance, like the IDL work. Chellie answered no, the company's energy advisors assist with the EE program applications and facilitate the incentive or assessment process. Damon said the IDL gets customers that were referred by energy advisors.

One member asked if the IDL will consider the residential sector and if they work on industrial projects. Damon answered that they do work with industrial as directed by the custom team, but commercial is their focus. The residential sector is funded through NEEA. The member then asked if the IDL has tours. Damon said yes and encourages high school students to shadow architects.

## **2:30 P.M. Wrap-up/Open Discussion**

I always enjoy these in person meetings. The IDL is over the top!

Appreciate the meeting being in person as there is always more to gain. On shade tree going away, I appreciate the company being proactive. It's nice to see ACCC campaign and the Flex Peak, and irrigation numbers. I hope to see the same with residential.

EEAG is so valuable, particularly in context. We plan to support the DSM Prudence case and are curious about the schedule.

I spent some time with this group in 2017-2019 and it is fun to be back. I rarely get to spend this much time on energy efficiency, and I really enjoy it.

The notes, presentations, and information are super helpful and easy to understand.

Thank you for the invitation to join. I found the topics helpful and I'm looking forward to engaging with EEAG.

Thank you for having us. I appreciate everything about today.

Quentin advised the next meetings are August 14 (virtual) and November 14 (in person).

**2:45 P.M. Meeting Adjourned**