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May 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Power Committee

FROM: Gillian Charles, Energy Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Solar Development in Idaho

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Scott Gates, Renewable Energy Specialist, Idaho Power

Summary: Mr. Gates will be discussing the current utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) development in Southern Idaho and how Idaho Power is planning on integrating the energy into its system.

Relevance: With solar costs decreasing significantly over the last several years, the Seventh Power Plan found that the cost of solar PV is now competitive with other new resource alternatives. The Plan encouraged utilities to analyze and consider solar PV when pursuing renewable portfolio standard compliance.

Workplan: Power Division Workplan (2016/2017) - A.4.3. Generation Resources – Track emerging technologies and development trends related to generating resources and utility-scale storage.

Background: At the April Power Committee, staff provided an update on solar development and performance across the United States. While the Pacific Northwest has not seen significant utility-scale solar PV development to-date, Idaho has several large projects in various stages of development (totaling an estimated 220 megawatts nameplate capacity). These projects have 20-year power purchase agreements with Idaho Power and are expected to be completed by the end of 2016.