



Idaho Public Utilities Commission

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Case No. CO7-E-25-01

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NEWS RELEASE: Commission Approves Northern Idaho Electric Utility's Amended Wildfire Mitigation Plan

BOISE (July 30, 2026) – The Idaho Public Utilities Commission has approved an amended Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) submitted by Kootenai Electric Cooperative, Inc. The amended plan provides additional information on work the utility is doing to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Electric utilities file the plans with the Commission pursuant to the Wildfire Standard of Care Act (WSCA). The WSCA requires the Commission to annually approve WMPs for investor-owned electric utilities. Under the WSCA, if a wildfire results in a lawsuit against an electric utility, there is a presumption the utility acted without negligence if it reasonably implemented a Commission-approved WMP. Municipal and cooperative electric utilities, which are not regulated by the Commission, may voluntarily submit plans for the Commission's review.

Each utility's WMP identifies areas where the utility has infrastructure or equipment that may be subject to heightened wildfire risk at the time the WMP is finalized. The plan also describes the actions and programs the utility will use to reduce wildfire risk as well as community outreach and public awareness efforts the utility will use before, during and after wildfire season. In addition, the utility will inform the public of relevant wildfire risk.

In an order issued on June 29, 2026, the Commission conditionally approved the utility's WMP. The Commission also directed Kootenai Electric to submit a compliance filing to ensure the plan comprehensively describes the utility's operational and wildfire mitigation measures.

In addition, the Commission directed the utility to submit additional information if it seeks approval of a future WMP. That information includes the utility's wildfire mitigation benefits, a more detailed explanation of how heightened wildfire risk zones are determined, an explanation of how mitigation activities such as grid hardening reduce wildfire risk, and incorporating certain recommendations from the Idaho Department of Lands.

The Commission's order approving the amended plan was issued on July 30, 2026.

Additional information on the WMP is available at: <https://puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7682>.