

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

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IN RE:  INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2019-0002
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**ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO CANCEL HEARING  
AND REQUESTING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

(Issued October 31, 2019)

On March 1, 2019, Interstate Power & Light Company (IPL) filed an application for revision of its natural gas rates. The application was identified as Docket No. RPU-2019-0002, and the associated proposed tariff implementing final rates was identified as TF-2019-0019. On March 8, 2019, the Iowa Business Energy Coalition (IBEC) filed a motion to intervene. Also on March 8, 2019, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA), a division of the Iowa Department of Justice, filed an appearance. On March 21, 2019, OCA filed an objection and request for a hearing. The Board granted IBEC's intervention and docketed the tariff for further investigation on March 26, 2019.

On March 28, 2019, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed a petition to intervene. A scheduling conference was held on April 1, 2019, at which OCA, IBEC, MidAmerican, and AARP of Iowa participated.<sup>1</sup> On April 3, 2019,

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<sup>1</sup> AARP of Iowa did not file a petition to intervene.

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WoodRiver Energy, LLC (WoodRiver), filed a petition to intervene. The Board issued an order on April 11, 2019, that, among other items, granted WoodRiver's and MidAmerican's interventions and set a procedural schedule for this docket. The hearing in this matter is scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2019. IPL, OCA, IBEC, and WoodRiver have all prefiled testimony in this docket. MidAmerican has not filed any testimony.

On October 22, 2019, and pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.12(5) and Iowa Administrative Code rule 199—7.18, IPL, OCA, IBEC, and WoodRiver (collectively the Parties) filed a “Unanimous Settlement Agreement and Joint Motion for Approval of Agreement.” The Parties assert they have reached a mutually acceptable proposed resolution in this proceeding. As part of the settlement, the Parties request the Board modify the procedural schedule to cancel the hearing scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2019. On October 23, 2019, MidAmerican filed a response indicating it does not object to the proposed settlement.

Under rule 199 IAC 7.18(1), the Board must review the settlement agreement to determine whether “the settlement is reasonable in light of the whole record, consistent with law, and in the public interest.” Because the proposed settlement addresses all contested issues, the Parties should not be required to expend additional time and resources on a hearing or briefing while the Board performs their review. Therefore, the Board will grant the Parties’ joint motion and cancel the

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evidentiary hearing. The Board will still meet on November 4, 2019 to hold a vote to go into closed session for deliberations in this matter.

The Board notes that it is still reviewing the settlement. The Board may reschedule the hearing for a later date if, upon review, it determines that a hearing is necessary. The Board currently has its monthly public meetings scheduled for November 12 and December 17, 2019. The parties should maintain their availability for those dates in the event the Board determines additional proceedings are required. Additionally, the Board requires additional information to complete its review of the proposed settlement. The Board will require IPL to answer the questions attached as Attachment A to this order.

Board rule 26.4 allows recovery of rate case expenses. Board rule 26.4(1) allows recovery of expenses through the date the utility's reply brief is filed. Since the Parties have filed a settlement and briefing is not expected, the Board will allow recovery of IPL's expenses through the filing of the settlement with the Board on October 22, 2019. Board and OCA expenses to be recovered will be determined as of the date of this order. IPL shall file its actual rate case expenses with the Board. If the Board later determines that additional proceedings are required, the allowed rate case expenses may be adjusted to account for the additional time and expense related to any such proceedings.

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**ORDERING CLAUSES**

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. The joint motion to cancel the hearing scheduled for November 4 and 5, 2019, is granted subject to the Utilities Board's review of the settlement.
2. The Utilities Board will meet publically on November 4, 2019 to hold a vote to go into closed session for deliberations pursuant to Iowa Code § 21.5(1)(f).
3. Interstate Power and Light Company shall file its actual rate case expenses as of October 22, 2019, no later than November 12, 2019.
4. Interstate Power and Light Company shall respond to the requests for additional information found in Attachment A to this order no later than November 12, 2019.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Geri D. Huser

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Kelsie Vanderflute

/s/ Richard W. Lozier, Jr.

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2019.

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Proposed Renewable Gas Tariff**

- 1) In its proposed tariff, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) refers to “RG Transportation Customer[s]” rather than “Producers” as MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) and Black Hills/Iowa Gas Utility Company, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy (Black Hills), do in their comparable tariffs. Provide the reasons IPL’s proposed tariff uses the term “customer” instead of “producer.”
- 2) Black Hills' and MidAmerican's renewable gas tariffs require that the renewable gas be consumed within the legal boundaries of the state of Iowa. Explain why IPL’s proposed tariff does not contain a similar requirement.
- 3) Black Hills' and MidAmerican's renewable gas tariffs require that the producer and the consumer of the renewable gas be served by the same pipeline. Explain why IPL’s proposed tariff does not contain a similar requirement.

**Uncollectible Accounts**

- 4) Explain the criteria for determining that an account is uncollectible.
- 5) Explain what happens to the account after it has been deemed uncollectible.
- 6) When a partial or full refund is to be made to the uncollectible account, explain:
  - a. The steps involved in issuing the refund;
  - b. How IPL communicates the change in the uncollectible balance to the agencies to which uncollectible accounts are reported; and
  - c. IPL’s process for ensuring the credits due to an uncollectible balance are correctly applied to the balance.

**Cash Working Capital**

- 7) Does IPL’s Collection Period of 26.3 days include accounts protected by the winter moratorium?
- 8) Has the percentage of IPL accounts protected by the winter moratorium increased, decreased, or remained steady over the past ten years?

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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Pipeline Corridor Transportation Service Tariff**

- 9) Provide an exhibit listing the following for each of the eight current Pipeline Corridor Transportation Service customers: the customer name and location, the date the customer first became a Pipeline Corridor Transportation customer, the ending date of the current contract, 2018 annual sales by month, the negotiated transportation rate, and a copy of the current contract applicable to the customer.

**Cost of Service**

- 10) IPL Iano Rebuttal Exhibit 1, Schedule A shows Other Revenues of (\$124,142) and Penalties of \$666,116. The schedules filed with the settlement agreement have the same amount for Penalties but (\$494,194.53) for Other Revenues. Explain how these numbers were derived and what they consist of.