

Feeding the Beast That Will Eat Us

The Fight Didn't End

Why Lava Ridge, SWIP-N, and the IPUC still matter: the corridor is intact, a nuclear proposal sits on the same ground, and the regulator answers to structure, not voters.

JEFF A. PIERSON · CONFIDENTIAL SOLUTIONS LLC · JEROME, IDAHO · JEFFAPIERSON.SUBSTACK.COM

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POLICY ACCOUNTABILITY SERIES | ISSUE NO. 1

Feeding the Beast That Will Eat Us

Energy, Land, and the Capture of Southern Idaho

Jeff A. Pierson | Confidential Solutions LLC | Jerome, Idaho

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The Fight Didn't End:

Why Lava Ridge, SWIP-N, and the IPUC Still Matter

▲ CRITICAL UPDATE. What Has Changed Since This Fight Began. The Lava Ridge Wind Project was formally cancelled in August 2025, when Interior Secretary Doug Burgum moved to rescind the Biden-era BLM approval.¹ But SWIP-N, the 285-mile, \$1.09 billion transmission line that made Lava Ridge-scale projects possible, received a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the IPUC on December 12, 2025 (Case No. IPC-E-25-08, Order No. 36874).² A nuclear project has been proposed on part of the same Jerome County ground.³ The corridor is intact. The pressure is ongoing.

I. The Steel Was Real: What the Federal Record Actually Says

If you opposed Lava Ridge, the fight did not end when the noise died down. Citizens who treat public battles like weather (a storm comes through, tempers flare, officials lie, then the sky clears and everyone drifts back to sleep) are the reason citizens lose. The issue did not vanish when the federal government changed hands. The infrastructure logic remains. The political machinery remains. The questions about who governs Idaho's land, water, and electric future remain entirely open.

This is the first article in a new series, Feeding the Beast That Will Eat Us: a sustained investigation into how energy development, transmission buildout, regulatory structure, and political economy combine to reshape southern Idaho over the objections of the people who live here. We are naming what is happening, documenting it with primary sources, and demanding that public officials answer for it in plain language.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1.09B

SWIP-N transmission line, 285 mile
Midpoint to Robinson Summit

500 MW

Northbound capacity for Idaho Pov
customers; ~1,120 MW southbound
to CAISO

77.2%

Share of SWIP-N cost funded by the
ISO

462 MW

Sawtooth Energy small modular re
proposed near the Midpoint Substa

DOCUMENT

Verified edition, July 18, 2026. 27
calculations explained, full glossar
questions. Every fact checked agai
sources.

✓ **DOCUMENTED FACT** The BLM's Record of Decision is a signed, published federal action. The decision was announced on December 6, 2024, and the notice of availability appeared in the Federal Register on December 11, 2024 (89 FR 99904, FR Doc. 2024-29099).⁴ The right-of-way was approved: a grant to Magic Valley Energy to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission a wind-powered electrical generation facility on public lands.⁵ The authorization was real. Idaho's Attorney General publicly vowed opposition the same day the decision was announced.⁶

On January 20, 2025, President Trump issued a presidential memorandum that halted new federal wind energy leasing and permitting pending review, cited the Lava Ridge Record of Decision by name, and directed the Interior Secretary to place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy under the ROD.⁷ The official federal cancellation came in August 2025, when Interior Secretary Doug Burgum moved to rescind the BLM's approval, citing legal deficiencies in the original decision.⁸ The turbines will not be built, at this time, under current federal leadership.

⚡ **LOGICAL POINT FOR REVIEW** The cancellation rests entirely on executive action, not on permanent statutory protection, revised federal land use policy, or enforceable local ordinance.⁹¹⁰ What an executive action giveth, a subsequent administration can take away. This is precisely why local land use ordinances and state legislative protections matter independently of federal political cycles.

Lava Ridge: A Timeline of Federal Action

DATE	ACTION
Feb 2020	Magic Valley Energy (LS Power affiliate) submits initial plan of development to BLM; a revised plan follows in August 2022 ¹¹
Jan 2023	Draft Environmental Impact Statement published; up to 400 turbines originally proposed ¹²
Jun 2024	BLM issues Final EIS with preferred reduced alternative (up to 241 turbines, 660-ft max height) ¹³
Dec 6, 2024	BLM Record of Decision announced; right-of-way formally issued to Magic Valley Energy for up to 231 turbines on BLM land, plus 10 on state-managed land ¹ ⁴
Dec 11, 2024	Notice of availability of the ROD published in the Federal Register ¹⁵
Jan 20, 2025	Trump presidential memorandum halts wind energy leasing and permitting; Lava Ridge cited by name ¹⁶
Jul 2025	Sawtooth Energy proposes 462-MW nuclear SMR project near the Midpoint Substation in Jerome County ¹⁷ ¹⁷
Aug 2025	Interior Secretary Burgum moves to rescind BLM approval; project cancelled ¹⁸
Dec 12, 2025	IPUC approves Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Idaho Power's interest in SWIP-N (Order No. 36874) ¹⁹

II. SWIP-N: The Corridor That Wasn't About Wind Power Alone

The Southwest Intertie Project-North (SWIP-N) is a \$1.09 billion, 285-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line running from the Midpoint Substation in Jerome County, north of Twin Falls, Idaho, south to the Robinson Summit substation near Ely, Nevada. Seventy-six of those miles are in Idaho.²⁰²¹ It is the final segment of a longer corridor, stretching through Nevada toward the California grid, that has been described as roughly 2,000 megawatts of bidirectional capacity. Under the California ISO's December 2023 decision, the line's transfer capability is rated at about 2,070 MW southbound and 1,920 MW northbound, split among LS Power's Great Basin Transmission, NV Energy, CAISO, and Idaho Power.²²²³ SWIP-N itself delivers **500 megawatts northbound to Idaho Power customers**. That is the public benefit the IPUC approved. Approximately 1,120 megawatts of southbound capacity is allocated to the California ISO (CAISO).²⁴

The Lava Ridge project was designed to connect directly to this corridor. Its power was planned to flow through the Midpoint Substation area into the SWIP system toward Las Vegas and southern California markets.²⁵ Build the corridor, then build the generation, then route the power south. That is the sequence. It is not speculation. It is the project record.

"The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources." (California ISO Transmission Planning, December 2023) ²⁶

As of early 2026, SWIP-N is moving forward. On December 12, 2025, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Idaho Power's interest in SWIP-N (Case No. IPC-E-25-08, Order No. 36874), finding that Idaho Power demonstrated the project will benefit customers and address capacity deficiencies.²⁷²⁸ In that proceeding, Commission Staff characterized the arrangement as a "least-cost, least-risk option" for meeting identified capacity needs.²⁹ Earlier targets had construction beginning in 2025 with completion in 2027; Idaho Power now reports construction beginning in mid-2026, with the line in service in 2028.³⁰³¹

Idaho Power's stake was widely reported as roughly 23% of the project, and that is close to accurate as a share of cost and capacity: per CAISO's December 2023 decision, Idaho Power funds 22.8% of project cost while CAISO funds 77.2%.³² The structure matters, though. Under the CPCN application and final order, Idaho Power holds an 11.4% ownership interest (about 250 MW) plus a Capacity Entitlement Agreement for another 250 MW, for a combined 500 MW, which is 22.83% of total SWIP capacity.³³³⁴ Idaho Power frames its investment as serving Idaho customers during winter months, enough to power more than 225,000 homes at high winter demand.³⁵ CAISO's funding share reflects its interest in the southbound capacity that can carry Idaho-region generation to California markets.³⁶³⁷

✓ **KEY STRUCTURAL REALITY. THE ASYMMETRY OF THE DEAL.** Idaho Power's 500 MW northbound is the public benefit the IPUC approved to justify the CPCN.³⁸ But approximately 1,120 MW of southbound capacity on the same line is allocated to CAISO, California's grid operator, which is also funding 77.2% of the project's cost.³⁹⁴⁰ CAISO's own planning documents justified the line by its access to Idaho wind resources.⁴¹ The line was designed around California's interest in Idaho-region generation, not Idaho's interest in winter imports. The Idaho ratepayer is a financing vehicle. California is the customer.

III. The New Proposal: Nuclear on the Same Ground

The Lava Ridge cancellation did not leave the Jerome County site quiet for long. In July 2025, Sawtooth Energy and Development Corporation announced plans to build a 462-megawatt small modular nuclear reactor project on 320 acres of BLM land near the Midpoint Substation, on ground overlapping the former Lava Ridge development area.⁴²⁴³ The project as announced would use six 77-MW NuScale VOYGR modules.⁴⁴

Project supporters argue it could produce 462 megawatts of reliable baseload power on roughly 40 acres of active infrastructure, compared to Lava Ridge's 1,000 megawatts across nearly 200,000 acres.⁴⁵ The project manager said the company deliberately chose the Midpoint area to piggyback on LS Power's environmental review work: "We have been piggybacking on their draft environment statement because it covered much of the ground where we are located."⁴⁶

⚡ **CITIZEN SCRUTINY REQUIRED** As of mid-2025, the company had no confirmed relationship with NuScale (NuScale stated: "Currently, we are not engaged with Sawtooth Energy and Development Corp., nor have we authorized them to make any public statements"), no interconnection request filed with Idaho Power, and no publicly known financing or utility offtake agreement.⁴⁷⁴⁸ The project manager, Dan Adamson, has no prior nuclear industry experience and was convicted of tax fraud in 2008, receiving a 27-month federal prison sentence.⁴⁹ These facts do not foreclose the project, but they are essential context for community members evaluating whether this is a serious proposal.

Community meetings in July 2025 drew residents who expressed concern about nuclear waste, groundwater impacts to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, and the absence of a confirmed national disposal site for spent fuel.⁵⁰ Rep. Jack Nelsen (R-Jerome) said: "My concern would be putting a light water reactor on top of our aquifer."⁵¹

The aquifer question alone warrants independent hydrological analysis before any BLM approval moves forward. Community meetings organized by a developer are not a substitute for independent technical review funded by a neutral party.

IV. The IPUC: Structure, Funding, and the Question of Independence

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is the body charged with regulating investor-owned utilities, including Idaho Power. Its December 2025 approval of the SWIP-N Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is a decision of substantial consequence for southern Idaho.⁵²

Two structural features of the IPUC deserve public attention. First, the Commission's operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates.⁵³ Second, the Governor appoints all three commissioners, with confirmation by the Idaho Senate, and the commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Political control over the appointment process directly shapes the regulatory body's composition.⁵⁴

✓ **DOCUMENTED RESEARCH FINDING** Research published through the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University examined utility political contributions after the 2005 repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act. Utilities that could contribute politically received authorized returns on equity approximately 0.4 percentage points higher than utilities operating under contribution restrictions, which the researcher estimates at roughly \$4 million in additional annual revenue for an average-sized utility. The research also found utilities contributed more aggressively, and secured higher authorized returns, in states where commissioners are appointed rather than elected.⁵⁵

Commissioner Edward Lodge served as Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Qwest/CenturyLink, a telecommunications company in a sector the IPUC regulates, from 2004 to 2020, before Governor Little appointed him to the Commission in February 2023.⁵⁶ This does not constitute evidence of wrongdoing. It does constitute exactly the kind of background that, in combination with appointment structure and funding mechanisms, merits sustained public scrutiny.

One analyst with direct involvement in Jerome County's energy ordinance proceedings offers a sharper structural critique:

"I believe that Idaho Power's participation in SWIP-N was so that FERC would allow ratebasing — and the IPUC certificate was a necessary rubber stamp based on Idaho Power's word and privileged documents the public isn't allowed to access but has to pay for." (Jeff A. Pierson, Confidential Solutions LLC, Jerome, Idaho)

📘 **TERM EXPLAINED: RATEBASING** Ratebasing is the process by which a utility includes a capital investment in its regulated rate base: the pool of assets on which regulators authorize the utility to earn a guaranteed rate of return, paid by ratepayers. For interstate transmission, FERC sets the wholesale transmission rates; the IPUC decides what Idaho Power may recover from Idaho retail customers. Once an asset is rate-based, customers pay not only construction and operating costs but also the utility's profit margin on that capital, every year, for the life of the asset. Idaho Power's combined SWIP-N commitment is 22.8% of a \$1.09 billion project, roughly \$250 million: an ownership stake of about 11.4% (roughly \$124 million of capital eligible for rate base treatment) plus payments under a 250 MW capacity entitlement agreement that would also flow to customers as recoverable costs.⁵⁷⁵⁸⁵⁹ The IPUC's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is the state-level gateway: the Commission granted the CPCN while deferring prudence determinations, meaning the actual cost recovery decisions, to future rate proceedings.⁶⁰

⚡ **ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENT. WHAT WOULD CONFIRM OR REBUT THIS.** Pierson's assertion is an analytical conclusion, not a proven finding, but it is grounded in how transmission rate recovery works and deserves public examination. What would confirm it: Idaho Power's FERC and IPUC rate filings showing the SWIP-N stake included in rate base; proceeding records showing the Commission relied primarily on Idaho Power's own modeling with no independent load forecast commissioned; confirmation that key documents were filed under confidentiality protection. On that last point, the record already speaks: the Definitive Agreements in the CPCN case were filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5.⁶¹ What would rebut it: an independent load analysis corroborating Idaho Power's winter capacity claims; rate filings showing SWIP-N was not rate-based; records showing substantive adversarial review. The prudence review has been deferred to future rate cases, and the confidential exhibits are not accessible to ordinary citizens, who fund the IPUC through the utility fees that pay the Commission's operating budget.⁶²⁶³

V. The Political Ecosystem: Who Benefits and How

The political economy of energy buildout, transmission expansion, and land conversion creates a self-reinforcing ecosystem: economic development boards, chambers of commerce, utility allies, real estate interests, and project developers all share an interest in continued buildout. They do not need to conspire. Shared incentives are sufficient.

The BLM's own announcement of the Lava Ridge decision framed it within the administration's renewable energy program on public lands, noting the Department had exceeded its goal of permitting 25 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2025, a target Congress set in the Energy Act of 2020, reaching more than 33 gigawatts of approved capacity.⁶⁴⁶⁵ The federal agency was operating from a policy framework already predisposed toward buildout, regardless of local conditions or community opposition.

"Idaho has spoken very clearly in opposition to this project... The Administration is moving ahead regardless of the damage to Idaho farms, ranches, rural communities, agricultural aviation, water supplies, wildlife, and historical sites." (Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador, December 6, 2024)⁶⁶

That does not mean resistance was hopeless. The fact that Lava Ridge was ultimately cancelled is evidence that organized, sustained public opposition, combined with a favorable federal political transition, can stop a large project.⁶⁷⁶⁸ But cancellation via executive action is not the same as building durable legal and policy structures that protect communities through multiple political cycles. That work remains undone.

VI. Questions That Demand Answers

Accountability requires specificity. The following questions are addressed to each of the relevant decision-making bodies. They are not rhetorical. They deserve written, on-the-record responses.

QUESTIONS FOR IDAHO LEGISLATORS

1. Idaho Power's SWIP-N commitment, an 11.4% ownership stake plus a 250 MW capacity entitlement totaling 22.8% of a \$1.09 billion project, is positioned for rate recovery, with prudence determinations deferred to future rate proceedings.⁶⁹⁷⁰⁷¹ Has the Legislature reviewed Idaho Power's FERC and IPUC rate filings to confirm whether and how SWIP-N enters rate base, what the authorized rate of return is, and what the total lifetime ratepayer cost will be? If not, why not?
2. The IPUC's CPCN proceeding relied substantially on Idaho Power's own filings, with the Definitive Agreements filed under confidentiality protection.⁷² Idaho ratepayers fund the IPUC through utility fees, yet cannot access the documents that justified a billion-dollar commitment made in their name.⁷³ Will the Legislature require that documents forming the evidentiary basis of any CPCN decision be made publicly available within 30 days of the Commission's final order?
3. Idaho lacks a statutory prohibition on large-scale industrial energy development in agricultural preservation zones. Will you introduce and support legislation that gives counties enforceable, state-backed authority to restrict or condition such development in agricultural

areas, rather than relying on discretionary CUP processes that have proven vulnerable to developer pressure?

4. The IPUC's operating budget is funded by fees from the utilities it regulates.⁷⁴ Have you examined whether this funding structure creates institutional pressures that compromise independent judgment? Will you conduct a legislative oversight hearing on the subject?
5. The Sawtooth Energy nuclear proposal sits over the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer in Jerome County.⁷⁵⁷⁶ What independent hydrological review will the Legislature require before BLM approval is considered, and who funds that review?
6. SWIP-N has been justified in part by Idaho Power's stated need for winter capacity.⁷⁷⁷⁸ Has the Legislature independently verified those capacity projections, or is it relying exclusively on Idaho Power modeling?
7. If a future federal administration reverses the Lava Ridge cancellation and reactivates the LS Power right-of-way, what state-level legal mechanisms exist to block it? If the answer is 'none,' will you draft them?

QUESTIONS FOR THE GOVERNOR

1. The IPUC commissioners are your appointees.⁷⁹ Have you established formal criteria requiring that commissioners have no prior employment relationship with the utilities they are assigned to regulate?
2. Idaho Power's ownership interest in SWIP-N, and the IPUC's December 2025 approval, creates a financial alignment between state utility infrastructure and a transmission line designed around carrying Idaho-region power to California markets.⁸⁰⁸¹ How does your administration define the public interest in that alignment, and who represents Idaho agricultural landowners in that proceeding?
3. The Lava Ridge cancellation rested on federal executive action, not state law.⁸²⁸³ What durable state-level protections have you proposed or signed to prevent a similar project from being reauthorized under a future federal administration?
4. Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka county commissions formally declined to support Lava Ridge, and local officials publicly opposed it.⁸⁴ In what specific ways did your administration act on those local positions in its communications with federal agencies, and can those communications be made public?

QUESTIONS FOR JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS & LOCAL OFFICIALS

1. Has the Board of County Commissioners formally requested an independent hydrological assessment of potential aquifer impacts from the Sawtooth nuclear SMR proposal before it advances to NRC or BLM review? If not, why not?
2. Does the county's current energy facilities ordinance (Chapter 11) explicitly address BESS facilities in agricultural zones, impose setback requirements, and establish liability bonds sufficient to cover remediation?⁸⁵
3. SWIP-N's Idaho segment runs 76 miles to the Midpoint Substation.⁸⁶ What conditions, if any, did the county negotiate for landowner protection, agricultural operation continuity, and decommissioning liability?
4. Public meetings for the Sawtooth nuclear project were organized by the developer.⁸⁷⁸⁸ Will the county organize its own independent community information session, with technical experts not paid by the developer?
5. How many acres of prime farmland in Jerome County have been converted, or are under active application for conversion, to industrial energy use, data center use, or related

infrastructure in the past five years?

💛 QUESTIONS FOR THE CONCERNED PUBLIC

1. What organizations, communication channels, and early-warning systems does your community have in place to monitor the next project proposal before it reaches the Record of Decision stage?
2. Are you aware that Idaho Power customers will help fund SWIP-N, and that its southbound capacity was designed to enable large-scale generation export from the Idaho region to California?⁸⁹⁹⁰
3. Are you connected to the water users, irrigation districts, and agricultural organizations that would have the most at stake in an aquifer contamination event? If not, how do you make that connection?
4. Do you know what Jerome County's current energy ordinance says, what it permits, what it prohibits, and how the permit process works?
5. What would it take for your community to build a standing civic infrastructure (legal defense fund, technical advisory network, media presence) that exists before the next application is filed?

VII. The Work That Remains

Citizens who once stood up for this land had better stay awake. The cancellation of Lava Ridge was a real victory. But a victory secured by executive action is a provisional victory, not a permanent one.⁹¹⁹² The transmission corridor that made Lava Ridge possible, SWIP-N, is moving toward construction with state regulatory approval, with utility investment, and with federal backing.⁹³⁹⁴ A new development proposal is already on the same ground.⁹⁵ The political and economic forces that advanced the original project have not dissolved.

The work that remains is structural. It is county ordinances with real teeth. It is state legislation that gives local governments enforceable authority over industrial energy siting in agricultural zones. It is legislative oversight of a regulatory body whose independence from the utilities it regulates is structurally strained by appointment structure and funding mechanism.⁹⁶ It is sustained, organized civic engagement that doesn't depend on the fortunes of any single federal administration.

That is why this series exists. That is why memory matters. And that is why the beast we helped create by permitting this infrastructure without adequate local protection may yet eat the very communities it was supposed to serve.

*Next in this series: The Data Center Trap. How Idaho's 2020 HB 521 tax exemption invited industrial development without agricultural protection, and what later legislative fixes have tried to do.*⁹⁷

Calculations Explained

Every calculation used in this article, in plain arithmetic:

1. **Idaho Power's 22.83% capacity share.** Idaho Power's combined SWIP-N entitlement is 500 MW (an owned share of about 250 MW plus a 250 MW capacity entitlement agreement). The IPUC

order states this equals 22.83% of total SWIP capacity. Working backward: $500 \div 0.2283 \approx 2,190$ MW, which matches the Great Basin Transmission share of the line's ratings in CAISO's December 2023 decision (1,117.5 MW southbound + 1,072.5 MW northbound = 2,190 MW).⁹⁸⁹⁹

2. **Dollar shares of the \$1.09 billion project.** CAISO funds 77.2% of project cost: $0.772 \times \$1,090$ million $\approx$ \$841 million. Idaho Power funds 22.8%: $0.228 \times \$1,090$ million $\approx$ \$249 million, which we round to "roughly \$250 million." The ownership portion alone is 11.4%: $0.114 \times \$1,090$ million $\approx$ \$124 million. An earlier draft of this article estimated "\$230 million" from "23% of \$1+ billion"; the corrected figures above use CAISO's stated cost of \$1,090 million and the shares in the IPUC record.¹⁰⁰¹⁰¹¹⁰²
3. **Cost per mile cross-check.** CAISO's decision lists \$3.8 million per mile. 285 miles $\times$ \$3.8 million $\approx$ \$1,083 million, consistent with the \$1,090 million total.¹⁰³
4. **The turbine reduction.** The original proposal was up to 400 turbines; the approved project totaled up to 241 (231 on BLM land plus 10 on state-managed land). $241 \div 400 \approx 0.60$, a reduction of about 40%, which is why reporters called the approved project "nearly half the size" of the original.¹⁰⁴¹⁰⁵
5. **The land-to-power comparison for the nuclear proposal.** Supporters' figures: 1,000 MW across nearly 200,000 acres for Lava Ridge is $200,000 \div 1,000 = 200$ acres per MW. The claimed 462 MW on about 40 acres of active nuclear infrastructure is $40 \div 462 \approx 0.09$ acres per MW. These are the promoters' own comparison figures; the wind project's actual permanent ground disturbance was far smaller than its total right-of-way (992 acres expected disturbed within a 38,535-acre siting area), so acreage comparisons depend heavily on which measure is used.¹⁰⁶¹⁰⁷¹⁰⁸
6. **What 0.4 percentage points of ROE is worth.** The cited research estimates a 0.4 percentage point higher authorized return on equity is worth about \$4 million per year for an average utility. That implies an equity rate base of roughly \$1 billion, since $\$1 \text{ billion} \times 0.004 = \$4$ million.¹⁰⁹

Glossary of Terms

- **BESS (Battery Energy Storage System):** Large banks of batteries installed to store electricity and discharge it to the grid later.
- **BLM (Bureau of Land Management):** The federal agency within the Department of the Interior that manages public lands, including the land involved in Lava Ridge and the Sawtooth nuclear proposal.
- **Baseload power:** Generation that runs continuously to meet minimum electricity demand, as opposed to intermittent sources like wind.
- **CAISO (California Independent System Operator):** The organization that operates most of California's electric grid and plans its transmission needs.
- **Capacity Entitlement Agreement:** A contract giving a utility the right to use a fixed amount of transfer capability on a transmission line it does not own outright.
- **CPCN (Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity):** State regulatory approval declaring that a utility project serves the public interest, a prerequisite for the utility to seek recovery of the project's costs from customers.
- **CUP (Conditional Use Permit):** A discretionary local land use permit allowing a use not otherwise permitted outright in a zoning district, subject to conditions.

- **Decommissioning:** Dismantling a facility at end of life and restoring the site, including funding assurances for that work.
- **EIS (Environmental Impact Statement):** The detailed environmental study federal agencies must prepare for major actions under the National Environmental Policy Act. A Draft EIS is released for public comment; a Final EIS precedes the decision.
- **Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer:** The vast underground water body beneath southern Idaho that supplies irrigation and drinking water for the region.
- **Executive order / presidential memorandum:** Written directives from the President to federal agencies. Both carry force within the executive branch, and both can be revoked by a later President.
- **Federal Register:** The federal government's daily journal, where agency decisions such as records of decision are formally published.
- **FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission):** The federal agency that regulates interstate electricity transmission and wholesale power rates, including the transmission rates on lines like SWIP-N.
- **Interconnection request:** A formal application to a utility or grid operator to connect a new generator to the transmission system.
- **IPUC (Idaho Public Utilities Commission):** The three-member state body that regulates Idaho's investor-owned utilities, funded by fees on the companies it regulates.
- **kV (kilovolt):** One thousand volts. A 500-kV line is among the highest-capacity transmission lines in North America.
- **MW (megawatt):** One million watts of electric power. A megawatt serves very roughly 450 to 800 homes depending on region and season.
- **NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission):** The federal agency that licenses and oversees civilian nuclear reactors.
- **Offtake agreement:** A contract in which a buyer commits to purchase a project's output, typically required before a power project can obtain financing.
- **Prudence review:** The regulatory examination of whether a utility's expenditures were reasonable, conducted before those costs are passed to customers.
- **Rate base:** The total value of a utility's assets on which regulators allow it to earn a return. **Ratebasing** is adding an investment to that pool.
- **Record of Decision (ROD):** The final, signed document in which a federal agency states its decision after an EIS, here the BLM's approval of the Lava Ridge right-of-way.
- **Return on equity (ROE):** The profit rate regulators authorize a utility to earn on the shareholder-funded portion of its rate base.
- **Right-of-way (ROW):** A federal land grant authorizing a company to build and operate facilities across public lands.
- **SMR (Small Modular Reactor):** A nuclear reactor design of roughly 300 MW or less per module, built in factories and assembled on site. NuScale's VOYGR module is rated at 77 MW.
- **Substation:** A facility where transmission lines connect and voltage is stepped up or down. Midpoint, in Jerome County, is a major hub of the regional grid.
- **SWIP-N (Southwest Intertie Project-North):** The 285-mile, 500-kV transmission line between the Midpoint Substation in Idaho and Robinson Summit in Nevada.

Five Questions the Public Is Likely to Ask

1. Lava Ridge was cancelled. Why should I still care? Because the cancellation was an executive action, not a law.^{[110111](#)} The right-of-way process, the transmission corridor, and the development pressure all remain. A future administration could reverse course, and the SWIP-N line that made Lava Ridge attractive was approved by Idaho regulators in December 2025 and is headed for completion in 2028.^{[112113](#)}

2. Will SWIP-N raise my power bill? Idaho Power's share of the project is roughly \$250 million of a \$1.09 billion line.^{[114](#)} The IPUC granted the certificate but deferred the actual cost recovery decisions to future rate cases.^{[115](#)} That is where the bill impact will be decided, so watch those proceedings closely.

3. Isn't 500 MW of winter power a good deal for Idaho? It may be. Idaho Power says the imports can serve more than 225,000 homes during winter peaks.^{[116](#)} The question this article raises is not whether imports help, but whether a line designed around California's access to Idaho-region generation, funded 77.2% by CAISO,^{[117](#)} was reviewed with genuinely independent analysis before Idaho customers were committed to it.

4. Is the nuclear plant in Jerome County actually going to happen? It faces long odds. As of mid-2025 the developer had no agreement with NuScale, no interconnection request, no disclosed financing, and a project manager with no nuclear experience and a federal tax fraud conviction.^{[118119](#)} But the proposal shows the Midpoint corridor keeps attracting large projects, which is the structural point.

5. What can an ordinary resident do? Learn the county's energy ordinance, attend IPUC comment periods, ask the questions in Section VI of your legislators and commissioners in writing, and support local organizations that monitor land use applications before they reach the approval stage. The record shows organized opposition changed the outcome once.

Document Metadata

Description (150 characters): Lava Ridge is cancelled, but the SWIP-N corridor, a nuclear proposal, and IPUC structure keep southern Idaho's land and power fight wide open.

Longer description: Issue No. 1 of the Feeding the Beast policy accountability series. The Lava Ridge Wind Project was cancelled by executive action in 2025, yet the transmission corridor built to serve it (SWIP-N) won state approval in December 2025, a 462-MW nuclear proposal has appeared on part of the same Jerome County ground, and the Idaho Public Utilities Commission's structure raises independence questions. The article documents the federal record, explains the ratebasing stakes, and puts specific questions to legislators, the Governor, county commissioners, and the public.

Summary: The fight over Lava Ridge did not end with its cancellation. The cancellation rests on executive action, not statute or ordinance, and can be reversed by a future administration. SWIP-N, the \$1.09 billion, 285-mile, 500-kV line from the Midpoint Substation to Robinson Summit, received its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity on December 12, 2025 (Case No. IPC-E-25-08, Order No. 36874). Idaho Power holds an 11.4% ownership interest plus a capacity entitlement totaling 500 MW northbound, while roughly 1,120 MW southbound serves the California ISO, which funds 77.2% of the project. Sawtooth Energy has proposed a 462-MW

small modular reactor near the Midpoint Substation. The IPUC is funded by fees on the utilities it regulates and its three commissioners are appointed by the Governor. The work that remains is structural: ordinances, legislation, and oversight that survive political cycles.

Keywords: Lava Ridge, SWIP-N, IPUC, Idaho Power, CPCN, ratebasing, Magic Valley Energy, LS Power, CAISO, transmission, Jerome County, Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, small modular reactor, NuScale, Sawtooth Energy, FERC, Record of Decision, BLM, energy policy, Idaho

FOOTNOTES AND CITATIONS

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1. U.S. Department of the Interior, "Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project," August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project> ; see also Capital Press, "Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project," August 8, 2025. <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project/>
 2. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings). https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf>
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 4. Federal Register, "Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Lava Ridge Wind Project in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties, Idaho," 89 FR 99904, December 11, 2024, FR Doc. 2024-29099 (right-of-way grant to Magic Valley Energy; up to 231 turbines on BLM-managed lands; 57,447-acre right-of-way area; 38,535 acres of siting corridors). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29099/notice-of-availability-of-the-record-of-decision-for-the-lava-ridge-wind-project-in-jerome-lincoln>
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 6. Idaho Office of the Attorney General, "Attorney General Vows Opposition Despite BLM Decision to Push Lava Ridge Wind Project Forward," December 6, 2024. <https://www.ag.idaho.gov/newsroom/attorney-general-vows-opposition-despite-blm-decision-to-push-lava-ridge-wind-project-forward/>
 7. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, "Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects," January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to "place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD"). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/> Correction: an earlier draft called this an executive order; it is a presidential memorandum.
 8. U.S. Department of the Interior, "Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project," August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project> ; see also Capital Press, "Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project," August 8, 2025. <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project/>

9. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to “place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD”). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/> Correction: an earlier draft called this an executive order; it is a presidential memorandum. [↗](#)
10. U.S. Department of the Interior, “Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project,” August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project> ; see also Capital Press, “Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project,” August 8, 2025. <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project/> [↗](#)
11. Wikipedia, “Lava Ridge Wind Project” (plan of development submitted February 2020, revised plan August 2022), accessed July 18, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava_Ridge_Wind_Project Correction: an earlier draft dated the initial submission to 2019. [↗](#)
12. Federal Register, “Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project,” January 20, 2023, FR Doc. 2023-00646 (original proposal of up to 400 turbines). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/20/2023-00646/notice-of-availability-of-the-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-proposed-lava-ridge-wind> [↗](#)
13. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM issues final environmental review for proposed Lava Ridge wind project,” June 2024 (Final EIS preferred alternative of up to 241 turbines, 660-foot maximum height). <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-issues-final-environmental-review-proposed-lava-ridge-wind-project> [↗](#)
14. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM advances Lava Ridge Wind Project in Southern Idaho,” December 6, 2024 (231 turbines on BLM-managed lands plus 10 on State of Idaho lands; 992 acres expected disturbed; 38,535-acre siting area; 660-foot maximum height; Department exceeded its 25-gigawatt renewable permitting goal, reaching more than 33 gigawatts). <https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-lava-ridge-wind-project-southern-idaho> Correction: an earlier draft dated the ROD to December 9, 2024; BLM announced the signed decision December 6, 2024. [↗](#)
15. Federal Register, “Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Lava Ridge Wind Project in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties, Idaho,” 89 FR 99904, December 11, 2024, FR Doc. 2024-29099 (right-of-way grant to Magic Valley Energy; up to 231 turbines on BLM-managed lands; 57,447-acre right-of-way area; 38,535 acres of siting corridors). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29099/notice-of-availability-of-the-record-of-decision-for-the-lava-ridge-wind-project-in-jerome-lincoln> [↗](#)
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20. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf> [↗](#)

21. Idaho Power, "SWIP-North" project page (285 miles total, 76 miles in Idaho; 500 kV; 500 MW of south-to-north capacity; more than 225,000 homes during high winter demand; construction beginning mid-2026, completion expected 2028), accessed July 18, 2026. <https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/planning-and-electrical-projects/current-projects/swip-north/>^e
22. California ISO, "Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North," Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; "The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources"). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>^e
23. Utility Dive, "DOE sets 2-year deadline for federal transmission permitting, cutting average timelines in half," April 25, 2024 (\$1.1 billion; about 285 miles from Twin Falls, Idaho to Ely, Nevada; 2-GW bidirectional; southbound allocation of 1,120 MW to CAISO and 953 MW to NV Energy; northbound 848 MW NV Energy, 573 MW CAISO, 500 MW Idaho Power; CAISO funding about 77%). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/doe-federal-transmission-permitting-citap-ls-power-swip-north/714256/>^e
24. Utility Dive, "DOE sets 2-year deadline for federal transmission permitting, cutting average timelines in half," April 25, 2024 (\$1.1 billion; about 285 miles from Twin Falls, Idaho to Ely, Nevada; 2-GW bidirectional; southbound allocation of 1,120 MW to CAISO and 953 MW to NV Energy; northbound 848 MW NV Energy, 573 MW CAISO, 500 MW Idaho Power; CAISO funding about 77%). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/doe-federal-transmission-permitting-citap-ls-power-swip-north/714256/>^e
25. Wikipedia, "Lava Ridge Wind Project" (power destination: Southwest Intertie Project, serving Las Vegas and Southern California), accessed July 18, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lava_Ridge_Wind_Project ; corroborated by the CAISO planning language in [v11]. The Final EIS's transmission tie-in details at the Midpoint Substation were not independently re-examined in the FEIS text itself as of July 18, 2026.^e
26. California ISO, "Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North," Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; "The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources"). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>^e
27. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings). https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf>^e
28. Capital Press, "Idaho PUC advances Southwest Intertie Project-North transmission line," December 18, 2025 (commission found Idaho Power "demonstrated the project will benefit customers and address capacity deficiencies"). <https://capitalpress.com/2025/12/18/idaho-puc-advances-southwest-intertie-project-north-transmission-line/>^e
29. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings). https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf>^e
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32. California ISO, "Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North," Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; "The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources"). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>^e
33. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Notice of Application, Order No. 36541, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, April 15, 2025 (Idaho Power seeking CPCN for "approximately 11.4 percent" ownership, 250 MW, plus transmission rights to an additional 250 MW; 500

MW total south-to-north).

https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20250415Notice_of_Application_Order_No_36541.pdf

Correction: an earlier draft stated flatly that “Idaho Power owns 23% of SWIP-N”; the accurate structure is 11.4% ownership plus a 250 MW entitlement, together 22.8% of cost and 22.83% of capacity.[e](#)

34. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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36. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”).
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43. Capital Press, “Nuclear project eyed for part of former Lava Ridge wind site,” August 11, 2025 (site 2.75 miles from the Midpoint Substation; Rep. Jack Nelsen: “My concern would be putting a light water reactor on top of our aquifer”).
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45. KIVI-TV, “Nuclear power proposal emerges for Jerome County site where controversial wind project stalled,” July 9, 2025 (462 MW on approximately 40 acres; Lava Ridge comparison of 1,000 MW on nearly 200,000 acres; Dan Adamson: “We have been

- piggybacking on their draft environment statement because it covered much of the ground where we are located”; four community meetings in July 2025). <https://www.kivitv.com/jerome/nuclear-power-proposal-emerges-for-jerome-county-site-where-controversial-wind-project-stalled>
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48. Neutron Bytes, “Jerome, ID, Nuclear Project Unlikely to Proceed,” July 31, 2025 (Adamson “has no experience in the nuclear energy industry”; “convicted of tax fraud in 2008 and sentenced to 27 months in a federal prison”; NuScale and Idaho Power disclaimed any relationship with the firm; no publicly known financial backing). <https://neutronbytes.com/2025/07/31/jerome-id-nuclear-project-unlikely-to-proceed/>
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50. KMYT, “Community express concerns about nuclear project proposal in Jerome County,” July 22, 2025 (concerns over radioactive waste storage above the aquifer and the absence of a national spent fuel repository). <https://www.kmyt.com/2025/07/22/community-express-concerns-about-nuclear-project-proposal-jerome-county/>
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53. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About>
54. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About>
55. Mark Van Orden, “Why states should prohibit utility political contributions,” Utility Dive, December 19, 2023, drawing on research for the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University (“treated utilities received ROEs 0.4 percentage points higher than control utilities”; approximately \$4 million in additional annual revenue for the average utility; larger effects where commissioners are appointed rather than elected). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/why-states-should-prohibit-utility-political-contributions/702835/>; underlying paper: “Power Play: Political Contributions and Regulatory Capture in the Electric Utility Industry,” The CGO. <https://www.thecgo.org/research/power-play/>
56. NIPPC speaker biography, “Ed Lodge” (Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for Qwest/CenturyLink, 2004-2020; appointed to the IPUC by Governor Brad Little in February 2023). <https://nippc.org/speakers/ed-lodge/>; see also Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Annual Report 2024. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/annualreports/ar2024/IPUC%202024%20Annual%20Report.pdf> Correction: an earlier draft attributed the biography detail to the annual report and described the employer only as a “utility-sector enterprise”; the employer was the telecommunications company Qwest/CenturyLink.
57. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>

58. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Notice of Application, Order No. 36541, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, April 15, 2025 (Idaho Power seeking CPCN for “approximately 11.4 percent” ownership, 250 MW, plus transmission rights to an additional 250 MW; 500 MW total south-to-north).
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 Correction: an earlier draft stated flatly that “Idaho Power owns 23% of SWIP-N”; the accurate structure is 11.4% ownership plus a 250 MW entitlement, together 22.8% of cost and 22.83% of capacity. [e](#)
59. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025.
<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [e](#)
60. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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61. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [e](#)
62. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [e](#)
63. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About> [e](#)
64. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM advances Lava Ridge Wind Project in Southern Idaho,” December 6, 2024 (231 turbines on BLM-managed lands plus 10 on State of Idaho lands; 992 acres expected disturbed; 38,535-acre siting area; 660-foot maximum height; Department exceeded its 25-gigawatt renewable permitting goal, reaching more than 33 gigawatts).
<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-lava-ridge-wind-project-southern-idaho> Correction: an earlier draft dated the ROD to December 9, 2024; BLM announced the signed decision December 6, 2024. [e](#)
65. Energy Act of 2020, Public Law 116-260, Division Z, Section 3104 (directing the Interior Secretary to seek to permit at least 25 gigawatts of wind, solar, and geothermal production on public lands by 2025).
<https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ260/PLAW-116publ260.pdf> An earlier draft stated the ROD itself cited the Energy Act of 2020; the Federal Register notice cites the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and BLM right-of-way regulations, while BLM's announcement framed the decision within the 25-gigawatt permitting goal that the Energy Act established. [e](#)
66. Idaho Office of the Attorney General, “Attorney General Vows Opposition Despite BLM Decision to Push Lava Ridge Wind Project Forward,” December 6, 2024. <https://www.ag.idaho.gov/newsroom/attorney-general-vows-opposition-despite-blm-decision-to-push-lava-ridge-wind-project-forward> [e](#)
67. U.S. Department of the Interior, “Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project,” August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project> ; see also Capital Press, “Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project,” August 8, 2025.
<https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project> [e](#)
68. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government's Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to “place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD”). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments->

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69. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Notice of Application, Order No. 36541, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, April 15, 2025 (Idaho Power seeking CPCN for “approximately 11.4 percent” ownership, 250 MW, plus transmission rights to an additional 250 MW; 500 MW total south-to-north).
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70. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power’s 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [↗](#)

71. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”).
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72. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power’s 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [↗](#)

73. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About> [↗](#)

74. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About> [↗](#)

75. Capital Press, “Nuclear project eyed for part of former Lava Ridge wind site,” August 11, 2025 (site 2.75 miles from the Midpoint Substation; Rep. Jack Nelsen: “My concern would be putting a light water reactor on top of our aquifer”).
<https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/11/nuclear-project-eyed-for-part-of-former-lava-ridge-wind-site/> [↗](#)

76. KMTV, “Community express concerns about nuclear project proposal in Jerome County,” July 22, 2025 (concerns over radioactive waste storage above the aquifer and the absence of a national spent fuel repository).
<https://www.kmvt.com/2025/07/22/community-express-concerns-about-nuclear-project-proposal-jerome-county/> [↗](#)

77. Idaho Power, “SWIP-North” project page (285 miles total, 76 miles in Idaho; 500 kV; 500 MW of south-to-north capacity; more than 225,000 homes during high winter demand; construction beginning mid-2026, completion expected 2028), accessed July 18, 2026. <https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/planning-and-electrical-projects/current-projects/swip-north/> [↗](#)

78. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power’s 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [↗](#)

79. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, “About” page: “Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates”; “The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate”; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About> [↗](#)

80. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”).
<https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf> [↗](#)

81. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings). https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf> [↗](#)
82. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to “place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD”). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/> Correction: an earlier draft called this an executive order; it is a presidential memorandum. [↗](#)
83. U.S. Department of the Interior, “Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project,” August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project> ; see also Capital Press, “Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project,” August 8, 2025. <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project/> [↗](#)
84. Magic Valley Times-News, “Not big fans: 3 counties affected by Lava Ridge Wind project withhold support,” August 2022 (Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka county commissions declined to support the project). https://magicvalley.com/news/local/not-big-fans-3-counties-affected-by-lava-ridge-wind-project-withhold-support/article_d96d273a-1e6d-11ed-b852-733389091180.html Correction: an earlier draft said Jerome and Lincoln counties “passed resolutions opposing” the project; the sourced record shows all three affected county commissions formally withheld support. [↗](#)
85. Jerome County zoning ordinance, Chapter 11 (energy facilities). Not independently verified as of July 18, 2026: web searches for the current text of Jerome County’s energy facilities ordinance did not return an authoritative online copy. The reference reflects the author’s direct participation in Jerome County energy ordinance proceedings; readers can request the current ordinance text from the Jerome County Planning and Zoning office. [↗](#)
86. Idaho Power, “SWIP-North” project page (285 miles total, 76 miles in Idaho; 500 kV; 500 MW of south-to-north capacity; more than 225,000 homes during high winter demand; construction beginning mid-2026, completion expected 2028), accessed July 18, 2026. <https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/planning-and-electrical-projects/current-projects/swip-north/> [↗](#)
87. KIVI-TV, “Nuclear power proposal emerges for Jerome County site where controversial wind project stalled,” July 9, 2025 (462 MW on approximately 40 acres; Lava Ridge comparison of 1,000 MW on nearly 200,000 acres; Dan Adamson: “We have been piggybacking on their draft environment statement because it covered much of the ground where we are located”; four community meetings in July 2025). <https://www.kivitv.com/jerome/nuclear-power-proposal-emerges-for-jerome-county-site-where-controversial-wind-project-stalled> [↗](#)
88. KMVT, “Community express concerns about nuclear project proposal in Jerome County,” July 22, 2025 (concerns over radioactive waste storage above the aquifer and the absence of a national spent fuel repository). <https://www.kmvt.com/2025/07/22/community-express-concerns-about-nuclear-project-proposal-jerome-county/> [↗](#)
89. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”). <https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf> [↗](#)
90. Utility Dive, “DOE sets 2-year deadline for federal transmission permitting, cutting average timelines in half,” April 25, 2024 (\$1.1 billion; about 285 miles from Twin Falls, Idaho to Ely, Nevada; 2-GW bidirectional; southbound allocation of 1,120 MW to CAISO and 953 MW to NV Energy; northbound 848 MW NV Energy, 573 MW CAISO, 500 MW Idaho Power; CAISO funding about 77%). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/doe-federal-transmission-permitting-citap-ls-power-swip-north/714256/> [↗](#)
91. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to “place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD”). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/> Correction: an earlier draft called this an executive order; it is a presidential memorandum. [↗](#)
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lava-ridge-wind-project ; see also Capital Press, "Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project," August 8, 2025.
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93. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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95. Utility Dive, "Nuclear could replace wind power at Lava Ridge site in Idaho," July 14, 2025 (462 MW; six 77-MW NuScale VOYGR modules; 320-acre BLM site about 15 miles northeast of Jerome near the Midpoint substation; no written deal with NuScale; no interconnection request filed). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/nuclear-could-replace-wind-power-at-lava-ridge-site-in-idaho/752912/> Later reporting described a range of three to six modules; KMVT reported the site as 328 acres.
96. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, "About" page: "Commission operations are funded by fees assessed on the utilities and railroads it regulates"; "The Governor appoints the three commissioners with confirmation by the Idaho Senate"; commissioners serve staggered six-year terms. Accessed July 18, 2026. <https://puc.idaho.gov/Home/About>
97. Idaho House Bill 521 (2020), sales tax exemption for eligible new data center server equipment.
<https://legiscan.com/ID/bill/H0521/2020> The specific later bills referenced in an earlier draft of this teaser (HB 895 and HB 897) were not independently verified as of July 18, 2026; searches of legislative tracking services did not confirm those bill numbers, and the follow-up article will document the correct citations.
98. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power's 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
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Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”).
<https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>

104. Federal Register, “Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project,” January 20, 2023, FR Doc. 2023-00646 (original proposal of up to 400 turbines).
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/20/2023-00646/notice-of-availability-of-the-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-proposed-lava-ridge-wind>
105. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM advances Lava Ridge Wind Project in Southern Idaho,” December 6, 2024 (231 turbines on BLM-managed lands plus 10 on State of Idaho lands; 992 acres expected disturbed; 38,535-acre siting area; 660-foot maximum height; Department exceeded its 25-gigawatt renewable permitting goal, reaching more than 33 gigawatts).
<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-lava-ridge-wind-project-southern-idaho> Correction: an earlier draft dated the ROD to December 9, 2024; BLM announced the signed decision December 6, 2024.
106. KIVI-TV, “Nuclear power proposal emerges for Jerome County site where controversial wind project stalled,” July 9, 2025 (462 MW on approximately 40 acres; Lava Ridge comparison of 1,000 MW on nearly 200,000 acres; Dan Adamson: “We have been piggybacking on their draft environment statement because it covered much of the ground where we are located”; four community meetings in July 2025). <https://www.kivitv.com/jerome/nuclear-power-proposal-emerges-for-jerome-county-site-where-controversial-wind-project-stalled>
107. Bureau of Land Management, “BLM advances Lava Ridge Wind Project in Southern Idaho,” December 6, 2024 (231 turbines on BLM-managed lands plus 10 on State of Idaho lands; 992 acres expected disturbed; 38,535-acre siting area; 660-foot maximum height; Department exceeded its 25-gigawatt renewable permitting goal, reaching more than 33 gigawatts).
<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-lava-ridge-wind-project-southern-idaho> Correction: an earlier draft dated the ROD to December 9, 2024; BLM announced the signed decision December 6, 2024.
108. Federal Register, “Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Lava Ridge Wind Project in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties, Idaho,” 89 FR 99904, December 11, 2024, FR Doc. 2024-29099 (right-of-way grant to Magic Valley Energy; up to 231 turbines on BLM-managed lands; 57,447-acre right-of-way area; 38,535 acres of siting corridors).
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/11/2024-29099/notice-of-availability-of-the-record-of-decision-for-the-lava-ridge-wind-project-in-jerome-lincoln>
109. Mark Van Orden, “Why states should prohibit utility political contributions,” Utility Dive, December 19, 2023, drawing on research for the Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University (“treated utilities received ROEs 0.4 percentage points higher than control utilities”; approximately \$4 million in additional annual revenue for the average utility; larger effects where commissioners are appointed rather than elected). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/why-states-should-prohibit-utility-political-contributions/702835/>; underlying paper: “Power Play: Political Contributions and Regulatory Capture in the Electric Utility Industry,” The CGO. <https://www.thecgo.org/research/power-play/>
110. U.S. Department of the Interior, “Interior Department Moves to Cancel Reckless Biden-era Approval of Lava Ridge Wind Project,” August 6, 2025. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-moves-cancel-reckless-biden-era-approval-lava-ridge-wind-project>; see also Capital Press, “Interior Department cancels Lava Ridge wind project,” August 8, 2025. <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/08/interior-department-cancels-lava-ridge-wind-project/>
111. The White House, Presidential Memorandum, “Temporary Withdrawal of All Areas on the Outer Continental Shelf from Offshore Wind Leasing and Review of the Federal Government’s Leasing and Permitting Practices for Wind Projects,” January 20, 2025 (names the Lava Ridge ROD and directs the Interior Secretary to “place a temporary moratorium on all activities and rights of Magic Valley Energy, LLC... under the ROD”). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/temporary-withdrawal-of-all-areas-on-the-outer-continental-shelf-from-offshore-wind-leasing-and-review-of-the-federal-governments-leasing-and-permitting-practices-for-wind-projects/> Correction: an earlier draft called this an executive order; it is a presidential memorandum.
112. Idaho Public Utilities Commission, Final Order No. 36874, Case No. IPC-E-25-08, December 12, 2025 (CPCN for Idaho Power’s 11.4% ownership interest in SWIP-N plus 250 MW Capacity Entitlement Agreement; combined 500 MW equal to 22.83% of total SWIP capacity; Definitive Agreements filed as Confidential Exhibit No. 5; Commission Staff described the arrangement as a least-cost, least-risk option; prudence deferred to future rate proceedings).
https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025.
<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf>
113. Idaho Power, “SWIP-North” project page (285 miles total, 76 miles in Idaho; 500 kV; 500 MW of south-to-north capacity; more than 225,000 homes during high winter demand; construction beginning mid-2026, completion expected 2028), accessed July 18, 2026. <https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/planning-and-electrical-projects/current-projects/swip-north/>
114. California ISO, “Decision on Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) North,” Board presentation, December 2023 (cost of \$1,090 million at \$3.8 million per mile; CAISO to fund 77.2% of project cost, Idaho Power 22.8%; transfer capability 2,070 MW north-to-south and 1,920 MW south-to-north; Great Basin Transmission south-to-north share of 1,072.5 MW including 500 MW to

Idaho Power; “The SWIP-North project is the only active proposal providing direct access to Idaho wind resources”).
<https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>^e

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https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/ELEC/IPC/IPCE2508/OrdNotc/20251212Final_Order_No_36874.pdf ; IPUC news release, December 15, 2025.
<https://puc.idaho.gov/Fileroom/PublicFiles/Press/20251215Idaho%20Power%201212%20Release.pdf.pdf>^e
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<https://www.caiso.com/documents/decisiononsouthwestintertieprojectnorth-presentation-dec2023.pdf>^e
118. Utility Dive, “Nuclear could replace wind power at Lava Ridge site in Idaho,” July 14, 2025 (462 MW; six 77-MW NuScale VOYGR modules; 320-acre BLM site about 15 miles northeast of Jerome near the Midpoint substation; no written deal with NuScale; no interconnection request filed). <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/nuclear-could-replace-wind-power-at-lava-ridge-site-in-idaho/752912/> Later reporting described a range of three to six modules; KMVT reported the site as 328 acres.^e
119. Neutron Bytes, “Jerome, ID, Nuclear Project Unlikely to Proceed,” July 31, 2025 (Adamson “has no experience in the nuclear energy industry”; “convicted of tax fraud in 2008 and sentenced to 27 months in a federal prison”; NuScale and Idaho Power disclaimed any relationship with the firm; no publicly known financial backing).
<https://neutronbytes.com/2025/07/31/jerome-id-nuclear-project-unlikely-to-proceed/>^e

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Jeff A. Pierson · Confidential Solutions LLC · Jerome, Idaho · jeffapierson.substack.com

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