2018 GREATER IDAHO FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Electrical Generation and Transmission

"Support legislation which reduces barriers and encourages additional and more substantive electrical generation and transmission capacity across the state. Increased capacity is critical to industrial and commercial growth. Support legislation related to small modular reactors (SMR) activities including tax incentives for the research, development, testing, implementation, and commercialization of SMR at the INL."

Access to reliable electricity is a critical part of a strong economy and successful economic development. As communities across Idaho engage in activities designed to grow existing companies and attract new ones from the outside, electrical infrastructure is high on the list of requirements.

Challenges to siting new infrastructure continue to exist in Idaho. Overcoming those barriers will require legislative action, continued cooperation and teaming among electrical utilities (investor owned, municipal, and cooperatives), greater cooperation across geopolitical boundaries, and more streamlined review and approval processes across state and federal agencies.

Adequate transmission capacity is also critical to eastern Idaho's efforts to attract the development and manufacture of commercial small modular reactors (SMRs). Such capacity is necessary for the testing and operation of SMRs.

The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) as the nation's lead nuclear lab is poised to lead nuclear energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced reactors including small modular reactors (SMRs). Private sector companies have invested more than one billion dollars in development, design, and testing of advanced reactors including SMRs.

The INL has been selected by a public/private partnership between the Department of Energy, one private sector company, and one electric utility joint action agency as the preferred location where the first advanced reactor will be constructed, tested, and operated. The 600 megawatt SMR will create an estimated 1,000 construction jobs at its peak for about 2-3 years. Once the plant is operational, full-time plant employment will be approximately 360 full time positions with an average salary of $85,000 for the duration of the reactor's operation. In addition to the direct benefit of additional employment, there are indirect economic benefits and associated job multipliers. Direct, indirect and induced employment during construction is estimated at 12,808 jobs with labor income estimated to exceed $1.5 billion and industry sales estimated to exceed $3.7 billion. Direct, indirect, and induced employment once the plant is operational is estimated at 1,507 jobs with labor income estimated to exceed $98 million and industry sales estimated to exceed $389 million.[a]

The State of Idaho has economic and educational interest in joining this public-private partnership to promote advanced reactor research, development, testing, implementation, and commercialization.

[a] *Idaho Department of Labor, Economic Impact Analysis, July 2016*