

December 30, 2003

Public forum, Salt Lake Tribune.  
P.O. Box 867, Salt Lake City, Utah

Editor, Salt Lake Tribune.

Sirs: The following forum entry might hit some raw nerves with the PacifiCorp Managers, directors, & vice presidents. I was employed with Utah power & Light for Twenty six years, a majority of which was in the System dispatch office in the general Office building on North Temple. I was a System Dispatcher, backbone transmission Operator until the job function was moved to Portland Oregon in the latter part of 2000.

I respectfully request that my name be withheld because of the sensitive nature of the following entry, if possible.

#### UTAH POWER- ARE THERE ANY EMPLOYEES LEFT?

I was visiting the PacifiCorp web site the other day and noticed something interesting on the careers posting page, out of a total of eighty seven solicitations for job openings, Sixty seven were for the PacifiCorp system, and only twenty for the Utah system, this was on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Having just survived almost three days freezing my tail off because of the power outage, and finding out that line crews were dispatched from as far away as Oregon, and Washington to help restore power I could only just shake my head in disgust.

I will never downplay the role the line crews served, as far as I am concerned they are the cream of the crop, and they don't get paid enough for the duties they perform, I do however have the same concerns I had when PacifiCorp made the decision to move the system dispatch center from Salt Lake to Portland, politics ruled the day and common sense went out the window. The Portland dispatch center is roughly nine hundred miles from Utah, they have to rely on communications that come through the Salt Lake center for a majority of the information they receive. I know first hand that it is, and can be unreliable at times, I know of many occasions when the channels were down, and the Portland center could not monitor the Utah system. The second problem that has been Prevalent is the radio communication system, when down the bell system has to be utilized to contact crews and personnel. The most interesting thing about the aforementioned problems has to do with the fact that when the Olympics were in Utah and the whole world was tuned in, the state of Utah and the Public Service Commission demanded that PacifiCorp relocate the System dispatch functions that PacifiCorp took to Portland in 2000 back to Salt Lake during the entire event. What does that tell you?. I know what that tells me, the state of Utah, the Public Service Commission, and the Governor didn't want to take any chances that the Olympics would be compromised, They knew that the risk of a disruption of power would be lessened if the System Dispatch office was where it should have been all along, in Utah, in the same building. On the same floor, and in the same room as the Distribution dispatchers, not nine hundred miles away. I urge Judi Johansen, CEO of the Utah side, and Irene Rees, Utah director of

Public Utilities to ask and find the answers to the following questions.

- 1) After being notified by the National weather service in advance, were the wheels set in motion well before the actual storm? (a common procedure in Utah).
- 2) Were any communication channels compromised, ie. T1 channels, RTU's that are routed from Salt Lake to Portland, microwave dishes and channels, was SCADA down at any time?
- 3) Why was Pacificorp so willing to return the Utah side System Dispatch functions to Salt Lake where it should have been all along, and not just during the Olympics?
- 4) Was there enough manpower in Utah to physically man the critical substations in Utah during the outage to monitor any relay action of breakers? (also a common procedure in Utah).
- 5) Was it the intent of Pacificorp to take virtually all the critical functions to Portland and leave a skeleton crew in Utah and hope for the best?
- 6) Last but not least, why is it that there are so very few job opportunities in Utah as compared to Portland?

I hope these questions will be addressed by the Utah Public Service Commission, Judi Johansen CEO Pacificorp, and the Governors office, But I'm not going to hold my breath.

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