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State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

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Director, Division of Public Utilities

MEMORANDUM

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities
Constance White, Director
Energy Section
Abdinasir Abdulle, Technical Consultant
Artie Powell, Manager

Date: June 8, 2007

Re: Docket No. 07-035-08. Formal Complaint; Drake/Lambourne Ave.
Neighborhood vs. Rocky Mountain Power.

BACKGROUND

On February 20, 2007, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting that the Division provide an explanation and statement of issues to be addressed in relation to the above referenced formal complaint. The Division was expected to file its response on April 23, 2007. On April 23, 2007, the Division requested that the Commission extend the due date of the Division's response to the Action Request for 45 days and the Commission granted that request. This memo will outline the scope and timeline of the Division's investigation and what the Division has done so far.

The issues raised in Dr. Drake's formal complaint, as is understood by the Division, are that Rocky Mountain Power failed to properly maintain safe electrical insulators in violation of NESC, Section 35 and Table 235-6, page 135 (NESC 2002 edition). As a result, according to the complaint, there are large numbers of failed insulator pins which resulted in numerous power outages, downed wires, flash over problems and pole fires in the Mill-creek area.

In order for the Division to fully investigate these issues and to update the 2003 Winter Storm Outage Report (Docket No. 04-035-01) and the stipulation in Docket No. 04-035-70 and various other commitments relating to service that have been adopted in the Mid American Acquisition and in the last general rate case, the Division hired Williams Consulting Inc. (WCI). Although the Division hired WCI primarily to update the 2003 Winter Storm Outage Report and the Irvine Stipulation, it also asked WCI to address the Dr. Drake complaint first.

WCI, in conjunction with the Division, has formulated its scope of work scope and timeline. This work scope includes, but not limited to, visual inspections of subject poles and circuits, interviews, review of maintenance budgets and inspection programs and outage statistics, and examination of issues related to pole fires, squatting insulators and NESC clearance and ground wires.

The Division will submit WCI's report containing its findings and recommendations to the Commission as soon as it becomes available.

In response to Dr. Drake's June 3, 2007 letter to the Commission in which Dr. Drake requested the Commission postpone the June 14 technical conference until June 28, the Division believes that in light of the Commission's Order and in light of the WCI's staff having already made plans to attend this technical conference, it should not be postponed. If additional technical conferences are required they can be scheduled.

CC: Rea Petersen, DPU
Jeff Larsen, RMP
Dave Taylor, RMP
Jeff Richards, RMP
Dan Gimble, CCS
Paul Proctor, CCS
Richard E. Drake