

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power's
Service Quality Review Report

DOCKET NO. 14-035-128
ORDER AND NOTICE OF
TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

ISSUED: July 6, 2015

This matter is before the Public Service Commission of Utah ("Commission") regarding the Utah Service Quality Review Report for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2014 ("2014 Report"), filed by PacifiCorp, dba Rocky Mountain Power ("PacifiCorp"), on April 30, 2015. In response to the Commission's May 8, 2015 Amended Notice of Filing and Comment Period,¹ on June 1, 2015, the Division of Public Utilities ("Division") filed a memorandum ("Division Memo"). On June 19, 2015, PacifiCorp filed comments responding to the Division Memo ("Reply Comments").

The Division commends PacifiCorp on its efforts to develop a meaningful report and on its cooperative work addressing service quality. Based on its review, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the 2014 Report as complying with the Commission's June 11, 2009, Order in Docket No. 08-035-55, "In the Matter of the Service Quality Standards for Rocky Mountain Power," and Utah Administrative Code R746-313. The Division also requests the Commission schedule a technical conference in order to receive clarification on various items presented in the 2014 Report.

The Division observes that during the latter months of 2014, the system average interruption duration index ("SAIDI") and system average interruption frequency index

¹ The May 8, 2015 Amended Notice of Filing and Comment Period amended the initial May 5, 2015 Notice of Filing and Comment Period by including a request that parties indicate in their comments whether a meeting would be necessary to discuss the Report.

(“SAIFI”) values were consistently below their respective performance measure control zones. The Division asserts that when the SAIDI and SAIFI baselines were approved in the Commission’s May 30, 2013 Order on Performance Baselines (“Order”) in Docket No. 13-035-01,² stakeholders advocated that these baselines would need to be updated periodically. Consistent with this view, the Division states that the refreshed SAIDI and SAIFI baselines presented in the table in Section 2.6 of the 2014 Report will be used by PacifiCorp going forward.

PacifiCorp, in its Reply Comments, agrees that performance baselines may need to be periodically re-evaluated. PacifiCorp states, however, that it is unclear of the timing and process for updating SAIDI and SAIFI baselines, either down or up. PacifiCorp notes performance levels are highly dependent on a variety of inputs and considerations, for example, the linkage between better reliability and investment for reliability. PacifiCorp recommends that if the Commission would like to re-evaluate service quality baselines, a technical conference should be convened to discuss the process for adjusting performance baselines.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Based on our review of the 2014 Report and the Division Memo, we concur with the Division’s recommendation and acknowledge the 2014 Report complies with the Commission’s reporting requirements. We also take note of the Division’s request for a technical conference, notice for which is provided below.

² See Docket No. 13-035-01, “In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power’s Proposed Utah Service Reliability Performance Baselines” (Order on Performance Baselines; May 30, 2013.)

We support PacifiCorp's cooperative work on electric service reliability and agree with PacifiCorp that service reliability performance levels are highly dependent on a variety of considerations. Pertaining to the issue of updating performance baselines, the Division suggests that the performance baselines adopted in our Order are not static, but rather, that the updating of performance baselines is a dynamic process based upon the most current data available. We note our Order refers to PacifiCorp's commitment to provide updated performance baselines in the annual service quality review report using the most recent five years of data. Additionally, for transparency, PacifiCorp committed to provide a cause code-weighted history based upon the same time period as the SAIDI and SAIFI data against which any underlying performance variances would be compared. Our Order states, "The Company maintains certain outage causes may have period-to-period volatility (for example, outages caused by malicious activity or a car hitting a telephone pole) and proposes that if a given cause code exceeds the level included in the history, discussion about the cause code performance, its impact on underlying performance, and its initiating events can be reviewed with stakeholders." We viewed PacifiCorp's commitments as a means of providing updated reliability information that could be used by parties for monitoring and review purposes.

Consistent with this understanding later in our Order we stated, "The Company proposes, and the Division recommends approval of, a control limit for the underlying SAIDI of 176 minutes and a Baseline notification level set at 201 minutes. For SAIFI, the Company proposes a control limit of 1.6 events, with a Baseline notification level set at 1.9 events. As stated above, rigorous monitoring and evaluation of reliability data by the Company, the Division, and the Service Quality Review Group will ensure the Commission is notified if modifications to the Baselines are appropriate. Therefore we accept the Company's proposed Baselines as stated in the Application, subject to ongoing review." To the extent the process for revising performance baselines is unclear,

we agree with PacifiCorp that this issue should be discussed during the technical conference noticed below.

NOTICE OF TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

A technical conference will be held in this docket on **Tuesday, August 11, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m. (MDT), Fourth Floor Room 401, Heber M. Wells Building, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.** The purpose of the technical conference is to discuss PacifiCorp's 2014 Report and for attendees to ask questions or request clarification on the 2014 Report or service quality issues in general. An additional purpose of this technical conference is to discuss the process for revising PacifiCorp's SAIDI and SAIFI performance baselines. We request the Division to lead these discussions. Parties having questions on the 2014 Report they would like addressed by PacifiCorp during the technical conference may email such questions to PacifiCorp at bob.lively@pacificorp.com by **5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28, 2015 (MDT).**

Individuals wishing to participate in the technical conference by telephone should contact the Public Service Commission two days in advance by calling (801) 530-6716 or (toll-free) 1-866-PSC-UTAH (1-866-772-8824). Participants attending by telephone should then call the Public Service Commission at the same number listed above five minutes prior to the technical conference to ensure participation.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) during the conference should notify the Commission at 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 530-6716, at least three working days prior to the conference.

ORDER

1. We acknowledge PacifiCorp's Utah Service Quality Review Report for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2014 complies with our reporting requirements.
2. The SAIDI and SAIFI performance baselines approved in our May 30, 2013 Order on Performance Baselines in Docket No. 13-035-01 remain in effect.

DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 6th day of July, 2015.

/s/ Thad LeVar, Chair

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ Jordan A. White, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
Commission Secretary
DW#267317

Notice of Opportunity for Agency Review or Rehearing

Pursuant to §§ 63G-4-301 and 54-7-15 of the Utah Code, an aggrieved party may request agency review or rehearing of this written Order by filing a written request with the Commission within 30 days after the issuance of this Order. Responses to a request for agency review or rehearing must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the request for review or rehearing. If the Commission does not grant a request for review or rehearing within 20 days after the filing of the request, it is deemed denied. Judicial review of the Commission's final agency action may be obtained by filing a petition for review with the Utah Supreme Court within 30 days after final agency action. Any petition for review must comply with the requirements of §§ 63G-4-401 and 63G-4-403 of the Utah Code and Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on the 6th day of July, 2015, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

By Electronic-Mail:

Data Request Response Center (datarequest@pacificorp.com)
PacifiCorp

Robert C. Lively (bob.lively@pacificorp.com)
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By Hand-Delivery:

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