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Division of Public Utilities

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ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Public Service Commission

From: Division of Public Utilities
Chris Parker, Director
Energy Section
Artie Powell, Manager
Doug Wheelwright, Technical Consultant
Eric Orton, Utility Analyst

Date: June 16, 2015

Subject: Bridger Valley Electric Association Docket No. 15-022-T01

In the Matter of Bridger Valley Electric Association's Proposed Tariff Revisions

RECOMMENDATION

The Utah Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge Bridger Valley Electric Association (BVEA)'s changes to its tariff Schedule, and make it available for public inspection.

BACKGROUND

The board of BVEA met and approved this tariff schedule on July 7, 2014 issuing it the next day (July 8, 2014). Customers/members were notified of this tariff rate schedule the first week of September 2014 in BVEA's regular monthly newsletter that it mails to all customers/members. The proposed effective date is January 1, 2015. BVEA filed notification of this change to its Tariff Schedules with the Commission on June 1, 2015.

On that same day the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division to investigate this notification. This is the Division's response to that Action Request.

ISSUE

This is a new schedule for BVEA. In the past there has been no rate schedule for customers/members who have no immediate need for electric service, but desire to have the electric line left in place for future use. Therefore, the poles and lines will be left in place while other equipment may be removed.

DISCUSSION

The Division has reviewed BVES's filing, attached tariff sheets and has spoken with BVES's representative. The filed tariff schedules appear to comply with the intended purpose of the cooperative's board which provides a rate for customers/members who do not use electricity currently but are willing to pay for the ability to connect at some point in the future.

The dates on this filing are unusual. This schedule was approved by BVEA's board nearly a year ago. The proposed effective date is just over six months ago. After talking with a representative from BVEA this was an oversight on its part. However, there are no Utah customers/members who have requested this service to date and therefore, BVEA is amenable to postponing the effective date. The Division is of the opinion that the effective date of tariff changes should be no sooner than 30 days after the date that notice is filed with the Commission (R 746-405-2-E.2) and Utah Code 54-3-3. The Division is authorized to represent that BVEA does not object to changing the effective date from January 1, 2015 to July 1, 2015.

CONCLUSION

The Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge BVEA's new tariff Schedule, which complies with Utah Code 54-4-1.1, with an effective date of July 1, 2015, and make it available for public inspection.

Cc: Jud Redden, Bridger Valley Electric Association
Maria Wright, Division of Public Utilities, Customer Service
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