



State of Utah
Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI
Executive Director

CHRIS PARKER
Director, Division of Public Utilities

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor
SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities
Chris Parker, Director
Energy Section
Artie Powell, Manager
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Analyst
Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant

Date: June, 22, 2015

Re: Docket No. 15-035-54. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report –April 14 through 16, 2015.

Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends that the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approve Rocky Mountain Power’s (“Company”) application for Major Event exclusion for the event that took place on April 14 through 16, 2015 (Event 34). The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) value for the event exceeded the threshold that defines a major event under the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ (IEEE) 2.5 Beta methodology adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04.

Issue

On May 21, 2015, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on April 14 through 16, 2015 requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On May 21, 2015, the Commission issued an Action Request to

the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency action and to make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report its findings and recommendations by June 19, 2015. However, On May 27, 2015, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period in which it stated that “any interested party may submit comments on PacifiCorp’s Request on or before **Monday, June 22, 2015**, and reply comments may be submitted on or before **Tuesday, July 7, 2015**. The Division recognizes that the Notice of filing and Comment Period supersedes the Action Request. Therefore, this memorandum represents the Division’s comments on the Company’s request for major event exclusion.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

On April 14 through 16, 2015, a succession of light rain, high winds, and heavy, wet snow hit 18 operating areas in Rocky Mountain’s territory. The most affected operating areas included Salt Lake City Metro, Jordan Valley, and Park City. This succession of events caused a substantial damages to the Company’s facilities and hence affected the Company’s reliability performance from April 14 through 16, 2015.

The event resulted in 29,958,438 customer minutes lost and 86,444 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. According to the Company, the damage to the Company’s facilities was extensive and included replacement of 8 transmission poles, 85 distribution poles, 137 cross arms, 22 transformers and approximately 11,589 line feet of conductors.

Discussion

The Division reviewed the Company’s calculations of the threshold that defines a major event under IEEE 2.5 Beta methodology adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04. Based on the data the Company provided to the Division, the Division determined that the threshold for the Daily SAIDI value for the year calculated by the Company, 6.52 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 34.47 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the April 14 through 16, 2015 event exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold.

The Company's Network Performance Standard No. 4 states that "*The Company will restore power outages due to loss of supply or damage to the distribution system within three hours to 80% of customers on average.*" The Division understands this standard to be applicable to normal conditions. In the case of a Major Event, the Division would determine whether a satisfactory level of effort was expended by the Company to restore power to comply with this standard.

In reviewing the Company's restoration efforts, the Division noted that the Company used, in addition to its local crews, company crews borrowed from other operating areas, contract crews, substation crews, and vegetation crews. These crews succeeded in restoring power to 45% and 51% of the customers who experienced sustained outage within three hours and within 3-24 hours, respectively. However, there 2,386 customers that experienced a sustained outage and power was not restored to them for more than 24 hours. Of these, there were 158 customers that were out of power for more than 48 hours.

In a Data Request to the Company (DPU 1st Set of Data Request to Rocky Mountain Power), the Division inquired information regarding the reason(s) why these customers were out of power for more than 24 hours (Question 1.2 of this Data Request). On June 16, 2015, the Division received the Company's responses to the Division's 1st Set of Data Request. On June 19, 2015, the Company provided a supplemental response to question 1.2 of this Data Request. In its response, the Company explained that there were a series of microbursts that resulted in a substantial damage to the system. Because of the extent of outage, the Company implemented a staged restoration effort. This allowed the Company to quickly restore power to as many customers as possible. In the first stage, the Company isolated the damaged of the system, restoring customers upstream to the damage location. In the subsequent stages, work was prioritized in order for the Company to quickly restore power to as many customers as possible. Those areas that were hard to reach because of access problems and had relatively fewer customers were the areas whose customers suffered the longest outage period. For detailed explanation of the Company's restoration effort, refer to the Company's response and supplemental response to question 1.2 of the Division's 1st Set of Data Request attached to this document.

Having reviewed the Company's filing and the response to the Division's 1st Set of Data Request, the Division concludes that the Company's restoration efforts were adequate.

Conclusion

Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value for this event, 34.47 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.52 minutes, and the restoration effort was adequate, the Division concludes that this event was a Major Event and should be excluded from the network performance reporting.

CC: Bob Lively, RMP
Michel Beck, OCS