



State of Utah

Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

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## Action Request Response

**To:** Public Service Commission of Utah

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities

Artie Powell, Director

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant

**Date:** June 8, 2020

**Re:** **Docket No. 20-025-01**, Empire Electric Association, Inc.'s Wildland Fire Protection Plan

### Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Empire Electric Association Inc.'s (EEA) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for an Electric Cooperative.

### Issue

Pursuant to Utah Code § 54-24-203, on May 11, 2020, EEA filed its WFPP. On May 12, 2020, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review EEA's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by June 10, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Discussion**

Empire Electric Association is a member owned electrical distribution cooperative. Section 54-24-203, requires electric cooperatives to prepare a Wildland Fire Protection Plan. The content of this plan includes procedures for inspections, vegetation management, preventive programs, de-energizing power lines, etc. On May 11, 2020, EEA filed its WFPP. The purpose of the filing was to comply with Utah code and to establish processes and procedures for evaluating, mitigating, and addressing wildland fire risk to EEA's system and its Utah service territory.

The Division reviewed the filing and determined that it contains a point by point discussion of the requirements of the code. Therefore, the Division concludes that EEA's filing is in compliance.

## **Conclusion**

Based on its review of EEA's filing, the Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge EEA's filing as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203.

Cc: Josh Dellinger, General Manager, Empire Electric Association, Inc.  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services