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State of Utah

Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

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Director, Division of Public Utilities

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: July 29, 2020

Re: Docket No. 20-027-01, Acknowledgement.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Flowell Electric Association (FEA) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) 2020-2023 as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for an Electric Cooperative.

Issue

Pursuant to Utah Code § 54-24-203, on July 1, 2020, FEA filed its WFPP. On June 29, 2020, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review FEA's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by July 29, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Discussion

Flowell Electric Association is a non-profit rural electric distribution cooperative. Utah Code § 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 July 1, 2020, FEA filed its WFPP. The purpose of the filing was to comply with Utah code, protect the public, minimize the chance of the cooperative's power lines starting wildfires, and speed the recovery from any wildfires that may occur.

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 FEA's filing is in compliance.

Conclusion

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

Cc: Durand Robison, Chief Executive Officer, Flowell Electric Association.

Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services