



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: October 19, 2020

Re: **Docket No. 20-031-01, Acknowledgement.** – Mt Wheeler Power Wildland Fire Protection Plan

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Mt Wheeler Power Cooperative (MWPC) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) 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 September 22, 2020, MWPC filed its WFPP. On the same day, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review MWPC's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by October 22, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Discussion

Mt Wheeler Power Cooperative is a non-profit rural electric 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 September 22, 2020, MWPC 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 MWPC's filing is in compliance.

Conclusion

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

Cc: Kevin Robinson, Chief Executive Officer, Mt Wheeler Power Cooperative
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services