



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

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant

**Date:** August 12, 2021

**Re:** **Docket No. 21-506-01**, Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative's update of its Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

### Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative's (DGTC) update of its Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for an Electric Cooperative.

### Issue

On July 19, 2021, DGTC filed an update of its WFPP filed on July 15, 2020. On July 19, 2021, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review DGTC's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by August 18, 2021. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Background and Discussion**

Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative is a regional generation and transmission 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, restoring power in case of wildland fire, etc. On July 15, 2020, DGTC 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. On April 19, 2020, the Commission approved DGTC's Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

On July 19, 2021, DGTC filed its Annual Update 2021 of its Wildland Fire Protection Plan. On the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review DGTC's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Division reviewed DGTC's filed updates of its plan and determined that the updates consist of some clarifying language changes intended to make the plan clearer. In addition, the updates include the latest version of Vegetation Management Procedures (Version 17). The Division did not find any changes in the substance of the plan. Therefore, the Division concludes that DGTC's filing is in compliance.

## **Conclusion**

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

Cc: Kimball Rasmussen, President & CEO, Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services