



# Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

October 12, 2021

VIA Electronic Filing

Utah Public Service Commission  
Heber M. Wells Building, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
160 East 300 South  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Gary Widerburg  
Commission Administrator

RE: Docket No. 22-031-01 Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative 2021 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report.

Pursuant to Utah Code 54-24-201(4) and 54-24-202 (2) and Administrative Code R746-315-3 Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative, Inc. hereby submits its 2021 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report.

The company respectfully requests that all formal correspondence and request for additional information regarding this filing be addressed to the following:

By email (preferred):

Kevin Robison, Chief  
Executive Officer,  
[kevinr@mwpower.org](mailto:kevinr@mwpower.org)  
Trish Stanton, Finance Manager,  
[Tstanton@mwpower.org](mailto:Tstanton@mwpower.org)  
Shellie Watts, Member Services/HR  
Manager, [shelliew@mwpower.org](mailto:shelliew@mwpower.org)  
William Ricci, Operations Manager,  
[billr@mwpower.org](mailto:billr@mwpower.org)

By regular mail: Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative  
1600 Great Basin Blvd.  
Ely, Nevada 89301

Informal inquiries may be directed to Bill Ricci, 775-289-8981 ext. 119

Sincerely,

William J Ricci,

Operations Manager



**Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative**

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# **Utah Wildland Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report**

October 12, 2021



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In review of our Wildland Fire Protection Plan dated August 2020 the following compliance reviews have been completed as of October 2021.

- A. Description of areas within the service territory of the electric cooperative that may be subject to a heightened risk of wildland fire.

***No changes to this section***

- B. Description of the procedures, standards, and time frames that the electric cooperative will use to inspect and operate its infrastructure.

***No changes to this section.***

- C. Description of the procedures and standards that the electric cooperative will use to perform vegetation management.

***No changes to this section***

- D. Description of proposed modifications or upgrades to facilities and preventative programs that the electric cooperative will implement to reduce the risk of its electric facilities initiating a wildland fire.

***Changes include:***

1. Pole testing and inspection
  - a. In Millard County, tested 353 poles, discovered 28 failures, replaced.
  - b. In Juab County, tested 46 poles discovered 12 failures, replaced.
  - c. 399 poles tested in total, 40 total failures, replaced
2. System Hardening
  - a. Reconductor and reinsulate 30 miles of 3-Phase overhead line in Millard and Juab counties.
  - b. 25 KV BIL (Basic Insulation Level) to 34.5 BIL (Basic Insulation Level) New insulators, anchors and guys to meet MWP new engineering construction standards
    - i. basic insulation level is defined as Insulation levels in electrical equipment are characterized by the withstand voltages used during the design tests. There are two basic classifications of insulation strength: **basic insulation level** (BIL) or lightning-impulse withstand voltage, and power-frequency withstand voltage (often called "hipot" voltage).
3. Operational Practices:
  - a. completed 34 miles of right of way clearing of high brush and pinion juniper trees in Millard and Juab counties.

- E. Description of procedures for de-energizing power lines and disabling reclosers to mitigate potential wildland fires, taking into consideration.

***Changes include:***

1. July 8, 2020, an all-employee memo was distributed.  
Effective immediately, through September 2020  
In performing our due diligence in mitigating the potential for wildland fire and due to the current high risk of fire any line opened due to a protective device operating will be patrolled before re-energizing. Anytime there is knowledge of an operation on any reclosers attempts will be made to look over the area for potential hazards. Updated: 10-1-2020 effective until further notice. Updated 6-23-2021 With increased fire danger, we call attention to this memo as a reminder to continue the fire mitigation practices put into place effective July 8, 2020. This memo will be in effect until further notice.

- F. Description of the procedures the electric cooperative intends to use to restore its electrical system in the event of a wildland fire.

***No changes to this section***