



# Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

October 11, 2022

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. 22-031-04 Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative 2022 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report.

Pursuant to Utah Code 54-24-203(4)(b). Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative, Inc. hereby submits its 2022 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report. This report was approved by the Mt. Wheeler Power Board of Directors during their October 11, 2022, board meeting. 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)

Tim Uhalde, Substation Manager [tuhalde@mwpower.org](mailto:tuhalde@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**

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

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

October 12, 2022



# Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

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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 Tooele County, inspected 59 poles, determined all needed to be replaced to accommodate 3 phase construction. Replaced.
2. System Hardening
  - a. Converted 4 miles of single-phase overhead line to 3 phase overhead line with taller poles and a larger conductor in Tooele County.
  - 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).
  - c. New insulators with higher hydrophobicity properties and fiberglass arms to reduce tracking and arcing in Juab and Millard Counties as needed.
  - d. Replaced 2 mid-point recloser and associated equipment, upgraded to current engineering standards on new poles and equipment in Millard County.
3. Operational Practices:
  - a. completed 8 miles of right of way clearing of high brush in Tooele County

- 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***