



State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI  
*Executive Director*

THAD LEVAR  
*Deputy Director*

CHRIS PARKER  
*Director, Division of Public Utilities*

GARY HERBERT.  
*Governor*  
GREG BELL  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

**To:** Utah Public Service Commission

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities  
Chris Parker, Director  
Energy Section  
Artie Powell, Manager  
Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant  
Sam Liu, Utility Analyst  
Abdinasir M. Abdulle, Technical Consultant

**Date:** January 4, 2012

**Re:** Docket No. 12-035-115 – Rocky Mountain Power’s Major Event Report for the Event of November 9 – 12, 2012.

---

### Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends that the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approve Rocky Mountain Power’s (“Company”) application for Major Event exclusion for the event that took place on November 9 through 12, 2012 (Event 31). The System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) value for the event exceeded the threshold that defines a major event under the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers’ (IEEE) 2.5 Beta methodology adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04.

### Issue

On December 5, 2012, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on December 9 through 12, 2012 requesting that this major event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On December 7, 2012, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency

action and to make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back on its findings and recommendation on January 4, 2013. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

### **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

On November 9 a snow storm enhanced by lake effect moved into Salt lake valley and continued through November 12, 2012 depositing 10 to 30 inches of heavy wet snow. Because the trees in the area were already carrying a lot of foliage, they could not hold the weight of the snow falling on them and consequently caused extensive damage to the Company's overhead system in the service areas listed in the Company's application. According to the Company's filing, the impact of the storm consisted of sustained interruptions of 116 substations serving 211 circuits, replacement of 12 distribution poles, 1 transmission pole, 28 crossarms, 4 transformers, and more than 12,000 line feet of conductors. Overall, the event resulted in 60,135 customers experiencing a sustained interruption and 12,246,280 customer minutes lost. The Company's preliminary cost estimate is \$850,000 as set forth in the Table below.

<b>Cost</b>	<b>Labor</b>	<b>Contactors</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Grand Totals</b>
<b>Capital</b>	60,000		15,000	75,000
<b>Expense</b>	610,000	135,000	30,000	775,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>670,000</b>	<b>135,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>850,000</b>

To restore power to the affected customers, the Company used its own crews from the affected service areas augmented with contract crews and tree trimming contractor. It succeeded to restore power to 77% of the sustained customers out within 3 hours.

The Company's Network Performance Standard No. 4 states that "*The Company will restore power outages due to loss of supply or damage to the distribution system within three hours to 80% of customers on average.*" This standard is applicable to normal conditions. Hence, since the Company restored power to 77% of the customers that experienced sustained outage within 3 hours, the Division concludes that the restoration effort was adequate.

## Discussion

The Division recognizes the impact the snow storm had on the Company's overhead facilities and the effort that the Company made to restore power as soon as practical. Based on its calculations<sup>1</sup>, the Division verified that the threshold for the Daily SAIDI value for the year is 5.91 minutes. The daily SAIDI value for Utah for the event that took place in November 9 through 12, 2012 was calculated by the Company to be 14.62 minutes.

However, the Division is concerned whether the Company's calculation of the SAIDI value is correct given that there were substantial number of customers who were without power even before the beginning of the 24 hour period used for the major event day as shown in the graph attached to the Company's application and attached here for ease of reference. In a phone conversation with the Company, the Company indicated that the starting point of the 24 hours is determined by moving back 24 hours from the time the 24 cumulative customer minutes lost (24 Hour CML) reaches the threshold limit. The outages before the start of the 24 hour were due to transmission interruptions that were of short magnitude and did not accrue enough customer minutes lost to meet major event threshold test. The customer minutes lost during this period are not included in the calculation of the SAIDI. Only the customer minutes lost from the beginning of the 24 hour period to the end of the event are included in the calculation. Hence, the Division concludes that the SAIDI values reported in the Company's application were calculated properly. Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value, 14.62 minutes, calculated for the event exceeds the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 5.91 minutes, the Division concludes that this event was a Major Event and should be excluded from the network performance reporting.

---

<sup>1</sup> Docket No. 12-035-98 - In the Matter of the Request of Rocky Mountain Power for Major Event Exclusion for the Weather-Related Events that Occurred on September 1, 2012 (Major Event 30)

### Utah Major Event November 9-12, 2012

