



State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

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## ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities  
Chris Parker, Director  
Energy Section  
Artie Powell, Manager  
Abdinasir Abdulle, Technical Consultant  
Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant

Date: February, 10, 2014

Re: Docket No. 14-035-01. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report – November 21-23, 2013.

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### 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 21-23, 2013 (Event 33). 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 January 9, 2014, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on November 21-23, 2013 requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On January 10, 2014, 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 its findings and recommendations by February 10, 2014. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

During a storm on November 21 through 23, 2013, a combination of wet snow and high winds, resulted in trees falling into power lines caused extensive damage to the Company's system in Moab, Ogden, Salt Lake City, Price, Cedar City, and American Fork operating areas. The event resulted in 7,870,883 customer minutes lost, and 57,676 customers experiencing sustained outage. The damage to the Company's facilities was extensive and included replacement of two transmission and 18 distribution poles, 14 transformers and over 4,100 line feet of conductors.

Using its own crews from the affected service areas and other areas, contractors, and vegetation crews, the Company succeeded to restore power to 82% of the sustained customers out within 3 hours. The Company indicated in its filing that the cost of this restoration effort was \$850,000.

## **Discussion**

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 82% of the customers that experienced sustained outage within 3 hours, the Division concludes that the restoration effort was adequate.

The Division recognizes the impact the storm had on the Company's distribution and transmission facilities and the effort the Company made to restore power as soon as practical. Based on its calculations, the Division verified that the threshold for the Daily SAIDI value for the year is 6.48 minutes. The Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah for the event as 9.19 minutes.

## **Conclusion**

Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value, 9.19 minutes, calculated for the event exceeds the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.48 minutes, the Division concludes that this event was a Major Event and should be excluded from the network performance reporting.

CC: Dave Taylor, RMP  
Michel Beck, OCS