



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, 24, 2014

Re: Docket No. 14-035-08. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report – December 19, 2013.

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 December 19, 2013 (Event 34). 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 23, 2014, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on December 19, 2013 requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On January 23, 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 24, 2014. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

On December 19, 2013, a winter storm with freezing rain, snow, and ice moved into some of the Company's operating areas in the Wasatch Front and Northern Utah impacting the reliability of the Company's facilities in these areas. The operating areas that were impacted included, but were not limited to, Salt Lake City Metro, Jordan Valley, and American Fork. The event resulted in 8,293,432 customer minutes lost and 39,080 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. According to the Company, the damage to the Company's facilities was extensive and included replacement of 2 transmission poles, 7 distribution poles, 37 cross arms, 1 transformer and more than 12,000 line feet of conductors.

Discussion

The Division reviewed the Company's calculations of the threshold that defines a major event under IEEE 2.5 Beta methodology adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04. Based on the data the Company provided to the Division, the Division determined that the threshold for the Daily SAIDI value for the year calculated by the Company, 6.48 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 9.68 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the December 19, 2013 event exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold.

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.*" The Division understands this standard to be applicable to normal conditions. In the case of a Major Event, the Division would determine whether a satisfactory level of effort was expended by the Company to restore power to comply with this standard.

In reviewing the Company's restoration efforts, the Division noted that the Company used, in addition to its local crews, company crews borrowed from other operating areas, contract crews, substation crews, and vegetation crews. These crews succeeded in restoring power to 57% of the customers who experienced sustained outage within three hours. With the exception of 20 customers who were affected by pole fires, power was restored for the remainder of the customers who experienced sustained outage within 24 hours. The 20 customers that were affected by the pole fires were restored within 40 hours. The Division is satisfied with the level of effort expended by the Company to restore power and concludes that the restoration effort was adequate.

Conclusion

Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value, 9.68 minutes, calculated for the event exceeds the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.48 minutes, and the restoration effort was adequate, 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