



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
Charles Peterson Technical Consultant
Justin Christensen Utility Analyst

Date: February 27, 2015

Re: Docket No. 14-035-103, RMP Quarterly Report for the Low Income Lifeline Program for QRT Ended December 31, 2014. In the Matter of Low Income Lifeline Program Reports

RECOMMENDATION (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Rocky Mountain Power's Low Income Lifeline Program (HELP) report for the quarter ending December 31, 2014 (Report) as compliant with the Commission Order in Docket No. 00-035-T07 dated August 30, 2000.

ISSUE

On January 28, 2015, Rocky Mountain Power (Company) filed its Low Income Lifeline Program (HELP) report, for the quarter ending December 31, 2014, with the Public Service Commission

(Commission). Also on January 28, 2015, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division to review the filing for compliance and to make recommendations and to report back to the Commission by February 27, 2015. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

DISCUSSION

A stipulation in Docket No. 00-035-T07, which was approved by the Commission in its August 30, 2000 Report and Order, established the accounting and reporting requirements of the Company. The required contents of the report are as follows:

1. The number of customers on Utah Tariff 1 and Lifeline Tariff 3.
2. The amount collected under the Lifeline tariff rider (HELP surcharge).
3. The amount credited to Lifeline tariff 3 customers' bills
4. The amount of any administrative charges from PacifiCorp
5. The amount of any administrative charges from DCED
6. The balance in the Lifeline Account at the end of the period
7. The balance in the Lifeline Account shall accrue interest.
8. For residential tariffs 1 and 3 , the monthly arrearage (an aging of accounts receivable)
9. For residential tariffs 1 and 3, the number of termination notices and actual terminations
10. For residential tariffs 1 and 3, the number and dollar amount of accounts turned over to collection agencies
11. For residential tariffs 1 and 3, the dollar amount of write-offs and recoveries

The Division reviewed the contents of the Company's quarterly report for the quarter ending December 31, 2014 filed with the Commission and determined that it complies with the Commission order in Docket No. 00-035-T07. Therefore, the Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge it.

However, as the Division noted in its 2014 second quarter response, in its Report and Order in Docket Nos. 03-035-01 and 04-035-21, the Commission directed the Division "...to report annually to the Commission on its review, financial audit, cost-benefit analysis and recommendations regarding HELP."¹ This annual report will inform the Commission, Division, and any other interested party about the trend of the measures and whether the program is meeting its intended goals. To do a quarterly analysis with the same level of rigor as the annual audit and review would be burdensome and would not add to our understanding of the program. In accordance with the Commission's order in Docket Nos. 03-035-01 and 04-035-21, the Division will complete and submit to the Commission its audit for 2014 as soon as practicable. As previously noted, the division has reviewed RMPS's quarterly filing and recommends that the Commission acknowledge the report as being compliant.

CC: Bob Lively, RMP
Michael Zimmerman RMP
Michel Beck, OCS

¹Public Service Commission, "Report and Order" November 23, 2005, Docket Nos. 03-035-01 and 04-035-21, page 16.