



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  
Artie Powell, Energy Section Manager  
Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant

Date: January 7, 2015

Re: Docket No. 14-035-148. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report – for the event occurring on November 1-2, 2014.

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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 1-2, 2014. 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 method adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04.

### Issue

On December 17, 2014, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on November 1-2, 2014 requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On December 17, 2014, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency action and to make

recommendations by January 16, 2015. The Division requested an extension of the Action Request to January 29, 2015 on December 18, 2014. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

On November 1-2, 2014, a widespread fall storm with high winds, rain, and snowfall moved into some of the Company's operating areas in northeastern and southern Utah impacting the reliability of the Company's facilities in these areas. The operating areas that experienced relatively high impacts from the storm included Cedar City, Layton, Ogden, Smithfield, and Tremonton. The event resulted in 7,520,301 customer minutes lost over a 24 hour period and a total of 37,709 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. According to the Company, the damage to the Company's facilities was extensive and included replacement of 9 transmission poles, 34 distribution poles, 25 cross arms, 8 transformers, 65 insulators and approximately 3,000 line feet of conductors.

## **Discussion**

The Division reviewed the Company's calculations of the threshold that defines a major event under the IEEE 2.5 Beta method 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, 6.60 minutes, is correct. For this event, the calculated daily SAIDI value for Utah is 8.71 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the November 1-2, 2014 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, contract crews, substation crews, and vegetation crews. These crews succeeded in restoring power to 63.6% of the customers who experienced sustained outage within three hours and an additional 35.8% of the customers between 3 hours and 24 hours. The Company notes that power was knocked out at two cellular telephone towers in a remote location near Cedar City that required "just over" three days to restore. The Company says that those sites had backup power sufficient to cover the outage period. The Company asserts that there "were no customer complaints filed with regard to the event's outages or the company's storm response."<sup>1</sup> 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 of 8.71 minutes calculated for the event exceeds the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.60 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: Bob Lively, RMP  
Michel Beck, OCS

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<sup>1</sup> Company's Major Event Report to the Commission, file December 17, 2014, page 1.