



State of Utah  
Department of Commerce  
Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI  
*Executive Director*

CHRIS PARKER  
*Director, Division of Public Utilities*

GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*  
SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

## 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: July, 31, 2014

Re: Docket No. 14-035-81. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report – May 10-12, 2014.

---

### 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 May 10 - 12, 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 methodology adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04.

### Issue

On July 1, 2014, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on May 10 - 12, 2014 requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting. On July 1, 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 July 31, 2014. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

On May 10-12, 2014, a spring storm with high winds, rain, and snowfall moved into some of the Company's operating areas in the Southern Utah impacting the reliability of the Company's facilities in these areas. The primary operating areas impacted included, but were not limited to, Cedar City, Cedar City (Milford), and Richfield. The event resulted in 8,059,706 customer minutes lost and 30,617 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. According to the Company, the damage to the Company's facilities was extensive and included replacement of 3 transmission poles, 14 distribution poles, 33 cross arms, 5 transformer, 65 insulators and approximately than 18,000 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, 6.60 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 9.33 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the May 10-12, 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, company crews borrowed from other operating areas, contract crews,

substation crews, and vegetation crews. These crews succeeded in restoring power to 60% of the customers who experienced sustained outage within three hours and an additional 38% of the customers between 3 hours and 24 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 of 9.33 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: Dave Taylor, RMP  
Michel Beck, OCS