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Division of Public Utilities

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ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE

To: Public Service Commission

From: Division of Public Utilities
Chris Parker, Director
Energy Section
Artie Powell, Manager
Doug Wheelwright, Technical Consultant
Eric Orton, Utility Analyst

Date: March 10, 2015

Subject: Action Request in Docket 15-031-T01, Mt Wheeler Power Co. Inc.

RECOMMENDATION

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge the changes to the Mt. Wheeler Power Co. Inc. (Mt. Wheeler) tariff rates for the Net Metering and Large General Service Net Metering rate classes and make them effective March 1, 2015.

BACKGROUND

On January 3, 2015, Mt. Wheeler's customers were notified through internet posting, email, direct mail and bill inserts of these proposed rate changes. In the January 10, 2015 board meeting the first reading of the new rates were tentatively approved and the Mt Wheeler board gave final approval at the second reading held on February 10, 2015. On February 18, 2015, Mt. Wheeler submitted to the Commission for acknowledgement and approval, a change in its Rate

Code NM, Net Metering Service (NM), and the Rate Code LGS-NM; Large General Service-Net Metering (LGS-NM). On March 3, 2015 the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division directing it to perform an investigation. This is the Division's response to that Action Request.

ISSUE

Mt Wheeler has roughly a dozen net metering customers and these new rates will prove beneficial to them. Based on a recent analysis performed by Mt Wheeler it was discovered that its solar array had greater peak time benefits than previously believed. That discovery, as well as small changes to the rates charged to Mt Wheeler from its wholesale electric provider, made these changes possible.

DISCUSSION

The proposed change will impact both the NM and LGS-NM schedules, will increase the Energy Excess Charge from \$.02 to \$.03 per kwh and "will be paid for all generated energy". There are no other changes to these rates. The LGS-NM rate was just introduced last year specifically addressing large net metering customers. Mt Wheeler's net meter rate for its small customers has been in place for several years and has had no rate change since 2012.

CONCLUSION

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge and approve the changes to Mt. Wheeler's LGS-NM and NM tariff rates with an effective date of March 1, 2015 and make them available for public inspection.

CC: Randy Ewell, General Manager, Mt. Wheeler Power Co.
Maria Wright, Division of Public Utilities
Mike Peterson, Director Utah Rural Electric Association
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services