

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

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In the Matter of Rocky Mountain Power's Service Quality Review Report	<u>DOCKET NO. 15-035-72</u>
	<u>ORDER</u>

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ISSUED: July 5, 2016

On April 28, 2016, PacifiCorp, dba Rocky Mountain Power (PacifiCorp), filed the Utah Service Quality Review Report for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015 (2015 Report) with the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission). The filing was made pursuant to the Commission's order in Docket No. 08-035-55<sup>1</sup> (Order) and Utah Administrative Code R746-313, Electric Service Reliability (Rule). In response to the Commission's May 2, 2016 Notice of Filing and Comment Period, the Division of Public Utilities (Division) filed a memorandum (Division's Memo) addressing the 2015 Report. On June 17, 2016, PacifiCorp filed comments responding to the Division's Memo (Reply Comments).

The Division's Memo addresses three main issues arising from its review of the 2015 Report. First, the Division concludes the 2015 Report complies with the Commission's Order and Rule. However, according to the Division, the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) and System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) baselines presented in the text of Section 2.6 of the 2015 Report are different from those presented in the accompanying table. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the 2015 Report as complying with the Order and the Rule under the condition that, prior to acknowledgement,

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of the Service Quality Standards for Rocky Mountain Power*, Docket No. 08-035-55, Order issued June 11, 2009.

PacifiCorp explains the relationship between the two sets of baseline ranges for SAIDI and SAIFI presented in Section 2.6 of the 2015 Report.

Second, the Division maintains that, consistent with trends identified in past service quality reports, the SAIDI and SAIFI (collectively, Reliability Indices) data presented in Sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.6 of the 2015 Report demonstrate that the Reliability Indices were either generally near or below their respective control zones in 2015. According to the Division, this issue was discussed in a technical conference held on November 19, 2015 in this docket and parties agreed to monitor the Reliability Indices data. In the event the trend continued, parties would then determine whether the baselines required updating and the associated updating process. The Division now believes that “the baseline control zone ranges for [the Reliability Indices] should be adjusted downward by small amounts to bring the current performance [of the Reliability Indices] within the lower end of their control zones.”<sup>2</sup> Thus, the Division tentatively recommends the Commission “order the baseline ranges for [the Reliability Indices] be adjusted, tentatively to the ranges set forth in the narrative portion of Section 2.6 on page 17 [of the 2015 Report,]”<sup>3</sup> *i.e.*, 144 to 192 minutes for SAIDI and 1.1 to 1.8 events for SAIFI.<sup>4</sup>

Third, the Division observes that from 2012 to 2015 the Momentary Average Interruption Event Frequency Index (MAIFIE) for Utah has risen continuously and more than doubled from its low of 0.72 in 2012 to 1.48 in 2015.<sup>5</sup> While not a serious issue, the Division recommends

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<sup>2</sup> The Division’s June 3, 2016 Memorandum at 3.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>4</sup> The current baseline ranges for the Reliability Indices are: 152 to 201 minutes for SAIDI and 1.3 to 1.9 events for SAIFI.

<sup>5</sup> *See* 2015 Report, Section 2.7 at 19.

PacifiCorp explain this trend and the significance of the increase in its next semi-annual Service Quality Review Report.

In its Reply Comments, PacifiCorp acknowledges “[T]here is reason to reconsider baselines against which it is comparing its performance.”<sup>6</sup> Therefore, PacifiCorp requests the Commission order PacifiCorp and the Division to convene a technical workshop that includes all interested parties, “wherein the various parameters that are inherent in the calculations for baselines could be explored with the objective of a joint recommendation to be provided to the Commission for consideration.”<sup>7</sup> PacifiCorp also agrees to explain the reason for and significance of the doubling of the MAIFIE measure since 2012 in its next semi-annual Service Quality Review Report.

### **DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

Based on our review of the 2015 Report and the Division’s Memo, we acknowledge the 2015 Report as complying with the Commission’s Order and Rule. We decline to apply any conditions to our acknowledgement, however, we conclude the issues identified in the Division’s Memo require further explanation or evaluation.

We support PacifiCorp’s cooperative work on electric service reliability and its willingness to reconsider the Reliability Indices baseline control limits. We agree with PacifiCorp that a technical workshop is the proper venue to discuss these limits as well as other issues identified in the Division’s Memo. Therefore, we direct PacifiCorp and the Division to convene a technical workshop, open to interested parties, to examine the Reliability Indices

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<sup>6</sup> PacifiCorp’s June 7, 2016 Reply Comments at 1.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

performance baselines and other issues identified in the Division's Memo. We direct the Division to lead the workshop and to file a report on the workshop, including any joint recommendations, by November 14, 2016. Finally, we appreciate PacifiCorp's willingness to address the MAIFIE measure as requested by the Division in the next semi-annual Service Quality Review Report.

**ORDER**

1. We acknowledge PacifiCorp's Utah Service Quality Review Report for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2015 as complying with our Order and Rule.
2. We direct PacifiCorp and the Division to convene a technical workshop, led by the Division and including all interested parties, to address the Reliability Indices baselines and other issues identified in the Division's Memo. We direct the Division to file a report on the workshop, including any joint recommendations, by November 14, 2016.
3. We direct PacifiCorp to address the doubling of the MAIFIE measure since 2012 in the next semi-annual Service Quality Review Report.

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DATED at Salt Lake City, Utah, July 5, 2016.

/s/ Thad LeVar, Chair

/s/ David R. Clark, Commissioner

/s/ Jordan A. White, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg  
Commission Secretary  
DW#279844

Notice of Opportunity for Agency Review or Rehearing

Pursuant to §§ 63G-4-301 and 54-7-15 of the Utah Code, an aggrieved party may request agency review or rehearing of this written Order by filing a written request with the Commission within 30 days after the issuance of this Order. Responses to a request for agency review or rehearing must be filed within 15 days of the filing of the request for review or rehearing. If the Commission does not grant a request for review or rehearing within 20 days after the filing of the request, it is deemed denied. Judicial review of the Commission's final agency action may be obtained by filing a petition for review with the Utah Supreme Court within 30 days after final agency action. Any petition for review must comply with the requirements of §§ 63G-4-401 and 63G-4-403 of the Utah Code and Utah Rules of Appellate Procedure.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that on July 5, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served upon the following as indicated below:

By Electronic-Mail:

Data Request Response Center ([datarequest@pacificorp.com](mailto:datarequest@pacificorp.com))  
PacifiCorp

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Administrative Assistant