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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, Technical Consultant

Date: August 30, 2016

Subject: Action Request Response in Docket 16-031-T03, Mt Wheeler Power, 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 Inc. (Mt. Wheeler) tariff with an effective date of September 1, 2016. The proposed changes will affect Rule 9 Line Extensions and Rule 24 Service Fees.

BACKGROUND

On August 10, 2016, Mt. Wheeler sent a request that the Commission consider and approve these proposed changes. On August 15, 2016, 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. The Mt. Wheeler board met on August 9, 2016 and approved these changes.

ISSUE

Mt. Wheeler's changes in Rule 9 will eliminate some rather confusing language regarding how the extension service fee is calculated, changing the contribution in aid of construction threshold from \$12,000 to \$20,000 and clearing up the language regarding single and three phase upgrades. The changes to Rule 24 increase the connection charge, dishonored check charge, regular and overtime labor, and vehicle rates (the Rule also provides a list of the applicable vehicles). No other changes to Mt. Wheeler's tariff have been adopted.

DISCUSSION

The Division has reviewed Mt Wheeler's filing, the attached rule sheets and have spoken with a Mt. Wheeler representative. According to Utah Code (54-3-3) and Commission Rule (R 746-405-2-E.2) the effective date of tariff changes should be no sooner than 30 days after the date that a notice is filed with the Commission and customers are informed. Since the Commission was notified on August 10, 2016 and the members/customers of Mt. Wheeler were notified on or around July 1, 2016 and the rates are scheduled to take effect on September 1, 2016, the requirements were nearly all met. Mt. Wheeler considers "Rules" separate than tariff rates as the charges are more intermittent and/or one-time. Since Mt. Wheeler submitted these Rule changes to the Commission with only 20 days to implementation, the Utah customers/members will not likely see the actual change for well after 30 days based on the nature of the Rules.

CONCLUSION

The Division recommends the Commission acknowledge the changes to Mt. Wheeler's Tariff with an effective date of September 1, 2016 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