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# 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  
Energy Section  
Artie Powell, Manager  
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Analyst  
Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant

Date: February, 29, 2016

Re: Docket No. 16-035-02. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report – December 14 through 15, 2015.

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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 December 14 through 15, 2015. 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 January 27, 2016, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on December 14 through 15, 2015 requesting that this event be excluded

from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On the same day the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency action and to make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report its findings and recommendations by February 26, 2016. On February 8, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period in which it stated that “any interested party may submit comments on PacifiCorp’s Request on or before **Monday, February 29, 2016**, and reply comments may be submitted on or before **Tuesday, March 15, 2016**. The Division recognizes that the Notice of filing and Comment Period supersedes the Action Request. Therefore, this memorandum represents the Division’s comments on the Company’s request for major event exclusion.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

On December 14 through 15, 2015, a severe snow storm, that accumulated up to 22 inches of snow, affected 16 operating areas in Rocky Mountain’s territory. The most affected operating areas included Salt Lake City Metro, Jordan Valley, American Fork, Cedar City (Milford), and Layton. This snow storm caused substantial damage to the Company’s facilities and hence affected the Company’s reliability performance from December 14 through 15, 2015.

The event resulted in 6,798,738 customer minutes lost and 43,284 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. According to the Company, the damage to the Company’s facilities was extensive and included replacement of 11 distribution poles, 2 cross arms, 3 transformers and approximately 1,397 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, 6.52 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 7.82

minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the December 14 through 15, 2015 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 about 75 percent of the customers who experienced sustained outage within three hours and 99 percent of customers were restored within 24.

Having reviewed the Company's filing, the Division concludes that the Company's restoration efforts were adequate.

## **Conclusion**

Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value for this event, 7.82 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.52 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