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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
Myunghee Tuttle, Utility Analyst

Date: November 21, 2016

Re: Docket No. 16-035-44. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for September 22-24, 2016

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 September 22 through 24, 2016. 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 November 2, 2016, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on September 22 through 24, 2016 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 December 2, 2016. In a subsequent order, 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 **Tuesday, December 6, 2016**, and reply comments may be submitted on or before **Tuesday, December 20, 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 September 22 through 24, 2016, a storm with strong winds and lightning caused customers in Tremonton, Smithfield, Layton, and Ogden, Utah to experience outages. In addition to the strong winds and lightning, several areas experienced damage caused by a tornado and heavy rains. The storm resulted in 29,932,639 customer minutes lost and 77,339 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. Of the total customer minutes lost, 58% were directly due to weather, and 26% were due to damage from trees as a result of the weather.

In addition to its local crews, crews from Idaho and Wyoming were called in to assist in restoration efforts. According to the Company, a total of 296 employees were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 4,525 feet of conductor, 78 poles, 26 transformers, and 20 crossarms. During the restoration efforts, approximately 38% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours, 84% were restored within 12 hours, and 97% were restored within 24 hours.

Discussion

The Division reviewed the Company's calculations of the threshold that defines a major event under the IEEE 2.5 Beta method 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, 6.06 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 34.15 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the September 22 through 24, 2016 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. Given the nature of the event and having reviewed the Company's filing, including its restoration efforts, the Division concludes that the Company's restoration efforts were adequate.

Conclusion

Therefore, since the Utah SAIDI value for this event, 34.15 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 6.06 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