



GARY HERBERT
Governor
SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI
Executive Director

THOMAS BRADY
Deputy Director

CHRIS PARKER
Director, Division of Public Utilities

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: May 16, 2017

Re: Docket No. 17-035-22. Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for March 5-6, 2017

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 March 5 through 6, 2017. 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 method adopted by the Commission in 2005 in Docket No. 98-2035-04.

Issue

On April 13, 2017, the Company filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on March 5 through 6, 2017, 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 May 15, 2017. On April 18, 2017, 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, May 16, 2017**, and reply comments may be submitted on or before **Tuesday, May 30, 2017**.” 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 March 5 through 6, 2017, a storm with strong winds, rain and snow caused customers in Salt Lake City Metro, Ogden, American Fork, Jordan Valley, and other operating areas in Utah to experience outages. The storm resulted in 9,529,963 customer minutes lost and 49,603 customers experiencing sustained interruptions. Of the total customer minutes lost, 62% were directly due to weather, and 11% 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 236 employees were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 22,000 feet of conductor, 15 distribution poles, 18 transmission poles, 5 transformers, and 4 crossarms. During the restoration efforts, approximately 58% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours, 29% were restored within 12 hours, 12% within 24 hours, and less than 1% were restored in over 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, 5.74 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 10.62 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the March 5 through 6, 2017 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, 10.62 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 5.74 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
Michele Beck, OCS