



## State of Utah

### Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

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## Recommendation

**To:** Utah Public Service Commission

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Analyst

Charles Peterson, Technical Consultant

**Date:** June 10, 2019

**Re:** **Docket No. 19-035-21.** Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for March 28-31, 2019 – Major Event No. 45.

### Recommendation (Approve)

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends that the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approve Rocky Mountain Power’s (“RMP”) application for Major Event exclusion for the event that took place on March 28 through 31, 2019. 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 May 10, 2019, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on March 28 through 31, 2019, 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 June 10, 2019. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

On March 28 through 31, 2019, a snowstorm 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 22,672,883 customer minutes lost and 46,056 customers experiencing sustained interruptions, with more than 4,085 customers experiencing interruptions lasting over 24 hours. Of the total customer minutes lost, 87% were directly due to weather and trees.

In addition to its local crews, crews from other operating areas were called in to assist in restoration efforts. According to the Company, a total of 502 employees were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 13,500 feet of conductor, 3 distribution poles, 1 transmission pole, 1,807 line splices, 194 insulators, and 422 guy wires. During the restoration effort, approximately 38% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours, 17% were restored within 3 to 6 hours, 23% were restored within 6 to 12 hours, 13% within 12 to 24 hours, and 9% 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, 5.08 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 23.96 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the March 28 through 31, 2019 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, 23.96 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 5.08 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