



State of Utah

Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE
Executive Director

CHRIS PARKER
Director, Division of Public Utilities

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: May 25, 2021

Re: **Docket No. 20-025-01**, Empire Electric Association, Inc.'s Wildland Fire Protection Plan

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Empire Electric Association Inc.'s (EEA) Revision 1, 2021 Update of its Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for an Electric Cooperative.

Issue

On April 28, 2021, EEA filed an update of its WFPP filed on May 11, 2020. On April 28, 2021, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review EEA's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by May 28, 2021. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Background and Discussion

Empire Electric Association is a member owned electrical distribution cooperative. Section 54-24-203, requires electric cooperatives to prepare a Wildland Fire Protection Plan. The content of this plan includes procedures for inspections, vegetation management, preventive programs, de-energizing power lines, etc. On May 11, 2020, EEA filed its WFPP. The purpose of the filing was to comply with Utah code and to establish processes and procedures for evaluating, mitigating, and addressing wildland fire risk to EEA's system and its Utah service territory. On June 11, 2020, the Commission acknowledged EEA's Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

On April 28, 2021, EEA filed its Revision 1, 2021 update of its Wildland Fire Protection Plan. On the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review EEA's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Division reviewed EEA's filed updates of its plan and determined that the updates consist of some clarifying language changes intended to make the plan clearer. The Division did not find any changes in the substance of the plan. Therefore, the Division concludes that EEA's filing is in compliance.

Conclusion

Based on its review of EEA's filing, the Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge EEA's filing as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203.

Cc: Josh Dellinger, General Manager, Empire Electric Association, Inc.
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services