



State of Utah

Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

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Action Request Response

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Artie Powell, Director

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: September 3, 2020

Re: **Docket No. 20-028-02, Acknowledgement.** – Garkane Energy Wild Fire Protection Plan.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Garkane Energy Cooperative (GEC) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for an Electric Cooperative.

Issue

Pursuant to Utah Code § 54-24-203, on August 10, 2020, GEC filed its WFPP. On the same day, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division requesting the Division review GEC's filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by September 9, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Discussion

Garkane Energy Cooperative is a member-owned cooperative. Utah Code § 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 August 10, 2020, GEC filed its WFPP. The purpose of the filing was to comply with Utah code, protect the public, minimize the chance of the cooperative's power lines starting wildfires, and speed the recovery from any wildfires that may occur.

The Division reviewed the filing and determined that it contains a point by point discussion of the requirements of the code. Therefore, the Division concludes that GEC's filing is in compliance.

Conclusion

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

Cc: Dan McClendon, CEO/General Manager, Garkane Electric Cooperative
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services