



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

Comments

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Bob Davis, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: February 16, 2021

Re: **Docket No. 20-035-04**, Application of Rocky Mountain Power for Authority to Increase its Retail Electric Utility Service Rates in Utah and for Approval of its Proposed Electric Service Schedules and Electric Service Regulations.

Recommendation

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (“Commission”) open a formal docket and set a scheduling conference to determine an initial meeting where interested persons or parties can discuss the scope of the process and topics raised in Rocky Mountain Power’s (“RMP”) general rate case.

Issue

On December 30, 2020, the Commission issued its Order in Docket No. 20-035-04, RMP’s General Rate Case (“Order”). In its Order, the Commission indicated it would accept comments by February 16, 2021, and reply comments by March 2, 2021, on the scope and format of the collaborative stakeholder process described in its Order. This memo represents the Division’s comments in this part of the proceeding.

Background

Throughout the general rate case proceeding, various parties proposed working groups, task forces, or other collaborative processes in connection with certain issues, adjustments, and RMP proposals discussed in testimony including the AMI Project, residential rates, a multi-site commercial rate, Schedule 32 rate design, Schedule 6A TOU rates, electric vehicle-specific rates, critical peak pricing, class cost of service allocation, and rate unbundling.

The Commission found that a collaborative stakeholder process could evaluate avenues for consensus or clarification on some or all of these issues. The Commission is seeking comments and reply comments on the scope and format of a collaborative stakeholder process. These comments may address the potential scope of the process, whether the process should involve a Commission docket or be more informal, whether any reporting is appropriate, and who should take the lead in the process.

Discussion

The Division recommends the Commission open a formal docket and set a scheduling conference to determine an initial meeting where interested persons or parties can discuss the scope of process. The scope of the process discussion should gather a consensus of the topics the workgroup wants to focus on or divide the topics into subgroups. As indicated by the Commission, the Division is mindful of parties' time demands and believes, based on process discussions, parties promoting an issue or adjustment should take the lead in various topics or subgroup discussions. The Division is available to take the lead to schedule and convene the workgroup sessions but not necessarily lead them.

Conclusion

The Division recommends the Commission open a formal docket and set a scheduling conference to determine an initial meeting where interested persons or parties can discuss the scope of process to discuss the topics raised in RMP's general rate case.

Cc: Service List