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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

Jeff Einfeldt, Utility Technical Consultant

**Date:** August 17, 2020

**Re:** **Docket No. 20-035-28, Acknowledgement.**

### Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP) Utah Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-201 – Wildland Fire Protection Plan for a qualified utility.

### Issue

Pursuant to Utah Code § 54-24-201(3), on June 1, 2020, RMP filed its WFPP. On June 22, the Commission issued a Scheduling Order and Notice of Technical Conference in which the Commission set the deadline for comments from Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands for July 22, 2020 and from all other interested parties for August 17, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's comments on RMP's filing.

## **Discussion**

Utah Code § 54-24-201, requires a qualified utility to prepare and file a WFPP on June 1, 2020. The plan should contain a description of the areas with heightened risk of wildland fire, the procedures and standards and time frames for inspecting and operating the infrastructure and performing vegetation management, and the procedure for de-energizing power lines and disabling reclosers to mitigate wildland fires. The plan should also contain descriptions of the upgrades to facilities and preventative programs to reduce the risk of wildland fire, the procedures to restore power in case of wildland fire, the community outreach and public awareness efforts, and the costs for implementing the plan.

In compliance with this code, RMP files its WFPP on June 1, 2020. This plan is intended to protect the public, minimize the chance that RMP's power lines starting wildfire, and to speed up the recovery from any wildfire that may occur. The Division reviewed the filing and determined that it contains a detailed description of all the items required by the code. The Division did not identify any problems or shortcomings with the plan. Therefore, the Division concludes that RMP's filing is in compliance.

RMP indicated and the Division agrees that the strategies, procedures and standards outline in this plan are subject to change as new technologies, practices and other improvements are identified. Future filings of the plan may contain modifications of this plan.

## **Conclusion**

Based on its review of RMP's filing , the Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge RMP's filing as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-201.

Cc: Jana Saba, Rocky Mountain Power  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services