



GARY HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

CHRIS PARKER
Executive Director

ARTIE POWELL
Director, Division of Public Utilities

Comments

To: Utah Public Service Commission

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 2, 2020

Re: **Docket No. 20-035-36, Approval.** Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for June 5-8, 2020 – Major Event No. 48.g

Recommendation (Approval)

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 June 5-8, 2020. 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 August 5, 2020, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on June 5-8, 2020, requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On August 7, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period in which it indicated that any

interested party may submit comments on or before Friday, September 4, 2020, and may submit reply comments on or before Monday, September 21, 2020. This memorandum represents the Division's comments on RMP's request for major event exclusion.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

On June 5, 2020, a storm with strong winds and precipitation moved into Utah and lasted for three days. Wind gusts reached up to 60 mph. The wind wrapped wires together and pulled the poles down. A light rain that followed caused pole fires due to dirt contamination from the wind storm. The storm resulted in 12,259,314 customer minutes lost and 56,039 customers experiencing sustained interruptions.

In addition to its local crews as well as substation and vegetation crews, contractors were called in to assist in restoration efforts. They replaced approximately 35,413 feet of conductor, 56 distribution poles, 14 transmission poles, 9 transformers, 79 crossarms, 179 line splices, 432 insulators, and other materials. During the restoration effort, approximately 41% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 59% were restored within 3 to 24 hours.

The restoration effort was impacted by the volume of lines that were involved in the event. COVID-19 guidelines also posed a problem. For instance, the entire crew in the Tremonton office were under quarantine limiting resources.

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, the Division determined that the threshold for the Daily SAIDI value for the year calculated by the Company, 4.84 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 14.71 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the June 5-8, 2020 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, 14.71 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 4.84 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: Jana Saba, RMP

Michele Beck, OCS