



Empire Electric Association, Inc.

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2021 EEA WILDLAND FIRE PROTECTION PLAN COMPLIANCE REPORT

Approved at the 12 November 2021 EEA Board of Directors Meeting

INTRODUCTION

Consistent with Utah Code §§ 54-24-203 (4) and 54-24-203 (2), Empire Electric Association, Inc. (EEA) submitted the annual Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) compliance report to the EEA Board of Directors (Board), providing plan implementation (completed and scheduled) for high-risk areas of Utah served by EEA.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

1. Regulator maintenance is on a five-year cycle. The line regulator that feeds Squaw Point had maintenance completed in May 2021. Monticello Rural substation regulators are not due until March 2024 and Dove Creek substation regulators are not due until December 2023.
2. The two substations that serve areas with high-risk fire danger, Monticello Rural and Dove Creek, were inspected (including substation protection devices) during the fire danger months of 2021 as follows:
 - a. Dove Creek: 4/6, 5/4, 6/2, 7/1, 8/2, 9/7
 - b. Monticello Rural: 4/6, 5/4, 6/2, 7/1, 8/2, 9/2
3. Line patrols are scheduled for every five years. All feeders from Monticello Rural substation and Feeder 3 from Dove Creek substation were last patrolled in 2017 and are due to be patrolled again in 2022.
4. Poles are tested on a 12-year cycle and the poles in the high-risk fire danger areas were last tested in 2020. They are due to be tested again in 2032. Poles may also be identified for replacement during line patrols.
5. Tree-trimming in the EEA right-of-way was done in the US Forest Service area of Blue Mountain Ranch in May 2021.
6. EEA WFPP Paragraph 4.a. specifies that all substation feeder protection devices in the Monticello Rural substation and one substation feeder protection device in the Dove

Creek substation will be upgraded to Arc Sensing Technology recloser controls by June 2023. We currently have the four required recloser controls, but are awaiting the potential transformers that are due to be delivered in December 2021. We expect to have these recloser controls installed and tested in spring/summer 2022.

7. A red-flag warning was issued for the State of Utah on 4/4/2021. All of the system protection devices that were determined to serve high-risk fire danger areas were put on the “summer” settings (non-reclose) as of 4/7/2021. These devices were identified in paragraph 4.b. of the EEA WFPP. Fire restrictions were eased for southeastern Utah on 8/6/2021, but the devices identified in the EEA WFPP remained on the summer settings until 9/6/2021.
8. Since there were no wildland fires in our Utah service territory in 2021, we did not have to implement emergency outage or electrical power restoration procedures.

WFPP CHANGES

While no changes to the WFPP are recommended at this time, there are two areas of concern that we are monitoring to see if changes would be needed in the future:

1. The system protection device serving Hovenweep National Monument was not included in the EEA WFPP as one that requires a settings change during a Red Flag Warning period because the area served was not designated as having high-risk of fire danger. This device was taken down for maintenance earlier this year and was temporarily replaced with a device that does not have non-reclose capability. Even though this device does not serve a high-risk area at this time, that could change in the future, so we will replace the temporary device with one that has non-reclose capability for future preparedness.
2. The system protection devices at Squaw and Bug Points experienced an increase in the number of events while in non-reclose, or the “summer” settings. Protection coordination with upstream devices will be reviewed prior to the next summer season to ensure that the members served by these devices do not experience an increase in outages due to miscoordination issues.

CONCLUSION

EEA will continue to comply with the present WFPP for the next two years, when we will be required to submit a new plan according to the statutes. We will also continue to submit an annual compliance report as required.