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Action Request Response

To: Utah Public Service Commission

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Artie Powell, Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Brenda Salter, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: April 1, 2021

Re: **Docket No. 21-035-15, Approval.** Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for September 7 - 16, 2020 – Major Event No. 49.

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) recommends that the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) approve Rocky Mountain Power’s (“RMP” or “Company”) application for Major Event exclusion for the event that took place on September 7 through 16, 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 March 3, 2021, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on September 7 through 16, 2020, requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On March 3, 2021, the

Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency action and to make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report its findings and recommendations by April 2, 2021. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

A wind storm with gusts measured 99 mph in Farmington and 112 mph in Salt Lake City, at the University of Utah, moved into the Northern Utah on September 7, 2020 and continued throughout September 8, 2020. The wind storm tangled the lines, fell trees, and damaged Company equipment. It caused customers in Salt Lake, Ogden, Jordan Valley, Layton, and other places to experience outages. The storm resulted in 523,700,243 customer minutes lost and 373,674 customers experiencing sustained interruptions.

In addition to its local crews and contractors, crews and resources from other operating areas including Idaho and Wyoming, were called in to assist in the restoration efforts. In addition, RMP received external mutual assistance and personnel from MidAmerican Energy, NV Energy, and utility contractor INTREN. According to the Company, a total of 893 employees and contractors were mobilized in the restoration efforts. Aerial restoration efforts were hampered as wind gusts continued through September 8, 2020. The Company replaced approximately 292,938 feet of conductor, 465 distribution poles, 9 transmission poles, 170 transformers, 543 crossarms, 13,589 line splices, 3,371 insulators, along with other materials. During the restoration effort, approximately 17% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 49% were restored within 3 to 24 hours. Approximately 7% of the customer outages took three or more days to be restored. The restoration effort was impacted by the amount of equipment damage and the number of trees that fell blocking the streets. Much of the system damage occurred in back lots, which impacted assessment and restoration efforts.

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 to the Division, 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 548.7 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the September 7 through 16, 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

Given the Utah SAIDI value for this event, 548.7 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