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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

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Status Report — GRID Modernization Collaborative Workgroup

To: Public Service Commission of Utah

From: Utah Division of Public Utilities

Chris Parker, Director

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Bob Davis, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: January 24, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 21-035-16**, Collaborative Stakeholder Process for Rocky Mountain Power's Grid Modernization and Rate Design

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) hereby submits to the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) its collaborative process status report (Report) for the second half of 2022.¹

During the second half of 2022, the Collaborative Stakeholders (Collaborative) have discussed the majority of the topics of concern outlined in Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP) most recent general rate case and the reason for this collaborative workgroup. The Department of Energy (DOE) Technical Assistance Program (TA) sponsored National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) presentations on September 7, 2022. These presentations and additional presentations by RMP and other stakeholders provided the Collaborative with information that will be helpful in future discussions on grid modernization and rate design in Utah.

Issue

On June 14, 2021, the Commission issued its Second Scheduling Order in Docket No. 21-035-16, Collaborative Stakeholder Process. In its Order, the Commission directed the Division to file a preliminary report to include the anticipated topics of the informal

¹ See Public Service Commission of Utah, Second Scheduling Order, Docket No. 21-035-16, June 14, 2021, <https://pscdocs.utah.gov/electric/21docs/2103516/3190922103516sso6-14-2021.pdf>.

workgroup discussions by July 30, 2021. The Commission directed the Division to file its first status report by January 31, 2022, and succeeding status reports every six months thereafter. This is the Division's third status report.

Background

The Commission initiated this docket on March 17, 2021. The purpose of the docket was to establish a collaborative stakeholder process related to grid modernization and rate design.²

The Commission's Initial Notice asked RMP to submit an informational filing to initiate the collaborative stakeholder process and answer Stakeholder questions during a technical conference on May 10, 2021. After receiving additional comments from Stakeholders during the technical conference, the Commission held a second scheduling conference on June 2, 2021.³

The Commission conducted the second Scheduling Conference with representatives from RMP, the Division, the Office of Consumer Services (OCS), Utah Clean Energy (UCE), Utah Association of Energy Users (UAE), Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Kroger, Walmart, and Nucor (collectively, Stakeholders).⁴ RMP agreed to provide all intervenors in this docket with appropriate notice and instructions for participation in the informal workgroup discussions. The Division agreed to file a preliminary report, including the anticipated topics to be discussed during the workgroup discussions. The Division agreed to file a status report every six months to advise the Commission on the status of its efforts and a final report at the end of the Stakeholders' collaboration.⁵

Discussion

The Stakeholders began their collaborative workgroup discussions on July 13, 2021, with a presentation from RMP on the fundamentals of rate unbundling. The Stakeholders determined that discussing specific topics and sub-topics in turn would develop a foundation

² Id., at p. 1.

³ Id.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id., at p. 2.

to help the collaborative workgroup progress forward. The Stakeholders agreed to several general topics of discussion with sub-topics for further discussion during its initial scoping meeting held on July 13, 2021.⁶ The Stakeholders have followed that same format for this reporting period, building on the previous discussions.

The DOE offered technical assistance to states to further grid modernization efforts during the third quarter of 2021. The Collaborative discussed potential scoping topics and filed its application on behalf of the Commission on or around September 27, 2021.⁷ The application was accepted and awarded in two separate parts. The first part combined Utah with four other states: Arkansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and New Jersey (collectively, Cohort), that share the same general topics of interest.⁸ The second part was specific to Utah's main topics of interest - smart inverters and demand response.⁹ The Division has participated in several discussions with NREL staff leading up to and after the presentations in September for both the Cohort and Utah's state-specific goals. NREL and LBNL have completed the Utah-specific topics and are in the process of compiling their report to the DOE due in January 2023. The Cohort discussions have just begun with the first discussion held on December 15, 2022, focusing on interconnection issues relating to distributed generation resources (DERs). The Division has updated and will continue to update the Collaborative regarding those discussions during future workgroup sessions.

The discussions and presenters since the last status report update are as follows:

July 28, 2022

NREL/LBNL DOE TA Update
Cost of Service Scenario Brainstorming¹⁰

Presenters:

⁶ See Division Preliminary Report, Docket No. 21-035-16, July 29, 2021, at 3, <https://pscdocs.utah.gov/electric/21docs/2103516/319750DPUPrlmnyRprt7-29-2021.pdf>.

⁷ See Attachment 1, Technical Assistance to State Public Utility Commissions Application Form. In its application to the DOE TA, the Stakeholders requested information on topics including Regulation and Utility Business Models, Rate Design and Ratemaking, Integrated Planning, Resilience Planning, Technology Application, and Evaluation, and Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination.

⁸ Interconnection Cohort, General Topics of Interest include: Improving the Interconnection Process, Modern DER Capabilities and Deployment Concerns, and Bulk Power System Considerations and Coordination.

⁹ See Attachment 3, "Utah Only" Smart Inverters and Demand Response.

¹⁰ The Stakeholders are discussing the different allocations and classifications along with various coincidental peak (CP) timing methods as presented in Stakeholders' testimony during the last general rate case.

Rocky Mountain Power

September 7, 2022

NREL/LBNL DOE TA Presentation
NREL - Smart Inverters
LBNL - Demand Response

Presenters:

NREL – Michael Ingram and David Narang
LBNL – Andy Satchwell, Natalie Mims Frick, and Miguel Heleno

October 26, 2022

New Mexico GridWorks Summary/Cohort Update
NREL/LBNL Smart Inverters/Demand Response Presentations Follow Up with NREL
RMP Green Button

Presenters:

Rocky Mountain Power

December 14, 2022

Follow Up Discussion for Remaining Items with NREL Update
RMP Cost of Service Continued Discussion

During the October 26, 2022, Collaborative discussion, RMP discussed its roadmap for the next three years. RMP has plans to either enhance and/or replace core business systems, as well as streamline core business processes, including Green Button functionality.

Green Button functionality was a major topic of concern to some of the Stakeholders during RMP's last general rate case. RMP's presentation expanded on the future enhancements to core business systems and processes that will enhance Customer Care and Billing, Meter Data, and Network Management systems integration. These potential integrations might include data management, grid management, data science, and analytical insights. As a result, new self-service offerings such as rate analysis, high bill forecasts, and energy disaggregation behind the meter, may lead to more efficient customer use of RMP's system through Green Button. However, RMP presented data that does not illustrate a large uptake of Green Button usage, as illustrated in the following tables.¹¹

¹¹ By permission from Rocky Mountain Power, Docket No. 21-035-16, RMP October 26.2022 DPU Grid Modernization Workgroup Presentation (Green button), October 26, 2022, Slide 4.

		2020	2021	2022
Current Green Button Usage	January	1,957	1,516	1,556
	February	1,605	1,393	1,270
	March	1,218	1,125	1,675
	April	979	851	1,146
	May	912	839	1,129
	June	1,014	1,099	1,510
	July	1,486	1,680	1,644
	August	1,947	1,716	2,103
	September	1,398	1,273	1,641
	October	1,088	1,065	
	November	796	1,073	
	December	1,203	996	
Total # of Clicks (Download Green Button data)		15,603	14,626	13,674

Web User IDs - As of 10/20/22	
State	Active Web User IDs
UT	800,581
ID	56,829
WY	88,843
RMP total	946,253

Less than *two percent* of RMP's total customers in Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah are participating in Green Button (with the majority in Utah).

In addition to the Collaborative discussions, the Division listened as a non-participant over the past several months to New Mexico's grid modernization discussions hosted by GridWorks. The grid modernization challenges faced by New Mexico are similar to those discussed by the Utah Stakeholders and have been informative.¹² The Division made the Collaborative aware of the GridWorks New Mexico discussions.

Future meetings and topics are as follows:

January 25, 2023 (Scheduled)

CFAN/IVVO, IJJA Funding, IRP Topics, Electrification Forecast, and Oregon
Distribution Planning

Presenters:

Rocky Mountain Power

March 7, 2023 (Scheduled)

¹² See GridWorks, New Mexico Grid Modernization, <https://gridworks.org/initiatives/prcs-2022-grid-modernization-webinar-series-2/>.

Time of Use Settlement (21-035-70, Paragraph 17), Non-Residential/Residential Load Management Programs Enabled by AMI/Special Contracts

The Stakeholders agreed to conduct additional workgroup discussions and will schedule dates and times as needed through 2023.¹³ During its March 7, 2023, meeting, the Collaborative will compile a list of remaining topics it plans to discuss over the next few months.

Conclusion

The Collaborative has discussed the majority of the topics of concern outlined in RMP's most recent general rate case and the reason for this collaborative workgroup. Any remaining topics may be covered in one or two more workgroups after the March meeting. The Division plans to file its next six-month status update by July 31, 2023.

cc: Service List

¹³ The collaborative workgroup has scheduled future sessions through March of 2023.