

## Public Service Commission

THAD LeVAR *Chair* 

DAVID R. CLARK Commissioner

JOHN S. HARVEY, Ph.D. Commissioner

## State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON Lieutenant Governor

September 11, 2023

Mr. Chris Parker Director, Division of Public Utilities 160 E 300 S Salt Lake City, UT 84114

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

Dear Mr. Parker:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) reviewed the Collaborative Process Six-Month Status Report ("Report") filed on July 27, 2023 by the Division of Public Utilities (DPU). The Report arises out of the PSC's order in Docket No. 20-035-04 that directed Rocky Mountain Power (RMP) to establish a collaborative stakeholder process (the "Collaborative") related to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) and Advanced Rate Design (ARD). At a scheduling conference held by the PSC on June 2, 2021 and attended by DPU, the Office of Consumer Services (OCS), Utah Clean Energy (UCE), Utah Association of Energy Users, Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Kroger, Walmart, and Nucor (collectively, "Stakeholders"), DPU agreed to file a status report every six months for approximately 24 months and a final report at the conclusion of the Collaborative to advise the PSC on the Stakeholders' efforts.

The Report contains a summary of the topics discussed by the Stakeholders, including those related to grid modernization, distributed energy resources, multi-site aggregation, Time of Use, AMI-enabled load management, RMP's renewable energy tariff, customer billing strategies, and other AMI or ARD issues. The Report states the Collaborative was informative, robust, and could help Stakeholders address the same potential topics with better information should they arise in specific regulatory matters. The Report states all topical discussions have concluded among the Stakeholders and requests the PSC end the Collaborative and issue a request for

Correspondence from Gary L. Widerburg Docket No. 21–035–16 Page 2

comments to afford Stakeholders an opportunity to present their conclusions to the PSC, which the PSC did on July 28, 2023 (the "Notice").

The PSC also reviewed the August 28, 2023 comments filed by OCS and RMP and the joint comments filed by WRA and UCE in response to the Notice. No other comments were received. OCS and RMP both support the discontinuation of the Collaborative and agree that while no consensus was reached on any particular topic, the Collaborative was beneficial for all parties involved. WRA and UCE oppose discontinuing the Collaborative so that the PSC may continue to receive updates related to RMP's grid modernization activities and various related federal funding opportunities.

The PSC appreciates the Stakeholders' many and significant contributions to the Collaborative. The PSC is optimistic that the work accomplished and shared knowledge will contribute to robust rate and other related regulatory proceedings when the individual or group of topics arise in such matters. Accordingly, the PSC expresses appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to the Collaborative and finds that the Collaborative has produced meaningful value. Considering the lack of consensus about whether continuation of the Collaborative would be beneficial, the PSC acknowledges that stakeholders have satisfied the directive from the PSC's order in Docket No. 20–035–04 and declines to direct any additional process.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg PSC Secretary DW#329790