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## State of Utah

### Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

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## Comments

**To:** Public Service Commission of Utah

**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:** December 16, 2021

**Re:** **Docket No. 21-035-63**, Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for October 12, 2021 – Major Event 50.

### 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 October 12, 2021. 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 November 16, 2021, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on October 12, 2021, requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the request for agency action and to make recommendations. On November 17, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period in which it indicated that any interested person may submit comments on RMP's Request on or before Thursday, December 16, 2021, and may submit reply comments on or before Monday, January 3, 2022. This memorandum represents the Division's comment on RMP's Request.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

A snowstorm moved into Utah on October 12, 2021. The snowstorm snapped tree branches and damaged Company equipment and caused customers in Smithfield, Richfield, Layton, Park City, and other places to experience outages. The storm resulted in 7,089,908 customer minutes lost and 16,989 customers experiencing sustained interruptions.

In addition to its local crews and contractors, crews from other operating areas were called in to assist in the restoration efforts. Access to certain areas was difficult due to heavy snow and mud. The Company replaced approximately 2844 feet of conductor, 5 distribution poles, 5 transformers, 6 cross-arms, 232 line splices, 3 insulators, along with other materials. During the restoration effort, approximately 26% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 74% were restored within 3 to 24 hours. The restoration effort was impacted by the snow accumulation while the trees were still in full foliage.

## **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, 4.54 minutes, is

correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 7.23 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the October 12, 2021 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, 7.23 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 4.54 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