



State of Utah

Department of Commerce
Division of Public Utilities

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Action Request Response

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: February 24, 2022

Re: **Docket No. 22-035-04**, Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for December 14-16, 2021. Major Event 51.

Recommendation (No Action)

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 December 14-16, 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 January 25, 2022, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on December 14 through 16, 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 January 26, 2022, 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, February 24, 2022, and may submit reply comments on or before Friday, March 11, 2022.” This memorandum represents the Division’s comments and recommendation.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

A severe wind storm moved into the Northern and Central Utah on December 14, 2021 and continued throughout December 16, 2021. The wind storm felled tree limbs on overhead lines, and damaged Company equipment. The storm caused customers in Salt Lake, Ogden, Jordan Valley, and other operating districts within Utah to experience outages and resulted in 9,080,499 customer minutes lost with 44,165 customers experiencing sustained interruptions.

In addition to its local crews and contractors, crews and resources from other operating areas were called in to assist in the restoration efforts. According to the Company, a total of 325 employees and contractors were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 1,230 feet of conductor, 10 distribution poles, 2 transformers, 40 line splices, 55 insulators, along with other materials. During the restoration effort, approximately 52% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 48% were restored within 3 to 24 hours. The restoration effort was impacted by the amount of snow accumulation and icy conditions, which made access to certain areas difficult.

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, 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 9.26 minutes. Based on the

above discussion, the Division concludes that the December 14 through 16, 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, 9.26 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