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## UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE  
*Executive Director*

CHRIS PARKER  
*Division Director*

## 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:** April 28, 2022

**Re:** **Docket No. 22-035-12**, Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for March 5-7, 2022, Major Event 52

## 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 March 5 through March 7, 2022. 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 (Docket No. 98-2035-04).

## Issue

On April 8, 2022, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on March 5 through March 7, 2022, requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On April 11, 2022, the Commission directed the Division to review the Company's application and

Division of Public Utilities

Heber M. Wells Building • 160 East 300 South • P.O. Box 146751 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6741  
[www.dpu.utah.gov](http://www.dpu.utah.gov) • telephone (801) 530-7622 • toll-free in Utah (877) 874-0904 • fax (801) 530-6512

determine if the event qualifies for exclusion under the 2,5 Beta method. On April 13, 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 Monday, May 9, 2022, and may submit reply comments on or before Tuesday, May 24, 2022.” This memorandum represents the Division’s comments and recommendation.

## **Event Description and Restoration Effort**

A severe snowstorm with high moisture content moved into Utah on March 5, 2022 and continued throughout March 7, 2022. The snowstorm downed trees and snapped branches, which fell on overhead lines and damaged Company equipment. The storm caused customers in Salt Lake City Metro, Jordan Valley, and other operating districts within Utah to experience outages and resulted in 10,361,707 customer minutes lost with 40,944 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 354 employees and contractors were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 8,250 feet of conductor, 3 distribution poles, 2 transmission poles, 5 transformers, 112 insulators, along with other materials, and completed 466 line splices. During the restoration effort, approximately 54% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 46% were restored within 3 to 24 hours. The restoration effort was impacted by the amount of snow accumulation, blizzard conditions, and mud in certain areas, which made access to these 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 (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, 4.41 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 10.34 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the March 5 through 7, 2022 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, 10.34 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 4.41 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