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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

Brenda Salter, Assistant Director

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor

Tyler McIntosh, Utility Analyst

Date: March 21, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 23-022-01**, Bridger Valley Electric Association's Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge the annual compliance report of Bridger Valley Electric Association (Bridger Valley) regarding the wildland fire protection plan.

Issue

On March 2, 2023, Bridger Valley submitted the annual report detailing the cooperative's compliance with the approved wildland fire protection plan in accordance with Utah Code Section 54-24-203(4)(a). On March 2, 2023, the Commission issued an action request to the Division requesting a review for compliance. This memo represents the Division's response to the action request.

Discussion

Utah Code Section 54-24-203(3) establishes the process for the electric cooperatives to prepare a wildland fire protection plan. In compliance, Bridger Valley in coordination with

Division of Public Utilities

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SWCA Environmental Consultants prepared a wildland fire protection plan. The plan was filed with the Commission in June 2020. Per Utah Code Section 54-24-203(4) electric cooperatives must file an annual report that details the cooperative's compliance with the approved plan. In this filing, Bridger Valley reported that it had presented the compliance report to its governing authority at a regular board meeting held on November 22, 2022. The report outlined the steps that have been taken during the last year to comply with the protection plan and identified, and as stated in the filing from Bridger Valley Electric trimming the right of ways, breakers put to non-reclosing, and raptor guarding as outlined in the wildland fire protection plan.

Conclusion

The Division requests that the Commission acknowledge the annual filing of the wildland fire protection plan in compliance with Utah Code Section 54-24-203(4)(a) and make it available for public inspection.

cc: Bob Larson, BVEA Operations Manager