



Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

October 31, 2023

VIA Electronic Filing

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building, 4th Floor.
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Attention: Gary Widerburg
Commission Administrator

RE: Docket No. 23-031-02 Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative 2023 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report.

Pursuant to Utah Code 54-24-203(4)(b). Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative, Inc. hereby submits its 2023 Wildland Fire Cost and Compliance Report. This report was reviewed at the August 9, 2023 meeting of the Mt. Wheeler Power Board of Directors, for approval. The company respectfully requests that all formal correspondence and requests for additional information regarding this filing be addressed to the following:

By email (preferred):

Kevin Robison, Chief Executive Officer, Kevinr@mwpower.org
Trish Stanton, Finance Manager, tstanton@mwpower.org
Shellie Watts, Member Services/Communications Manager, shelliew@mwpower.org
William Ricci, Operations Manager, billr@mwpower.org
Tim Uhalde, Substation Manager tuhalde@mwpower.org

By regular mail: Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative
 1600 Great Basin Blvd.
 Ely, Nevada 89301

Informal inquiries may be directed to Bill Ricci, 775-289-8981 ext. 119

Sincerely,

William J Ricci,

Operations Manager



Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

Utah Wildland Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report

October 17, 2023



Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative

1600 Great Basin Blvd., Ely, Nevada 89301

In a review of our Wildland Fire Protection Plan dated August 2020, the following compliance reviews have been completed as of October 1, 2023.

- A. Description of areas within the service territory of the electric cooperative that may be subject to a heightened risk of wildland fire.

No changes to this section

- B. Description of the procedures, standards, and time frames that the electric cooperative will use to inspect and operate its infrastructure.

No changes to this section.

- C. Description of the procedures and standards that the electric cooperative will use to perform vegetation management.

No changes to this section

- D. Description of proposed modifications or upgrades to facilities and preventative programs that the electric cooperative will implement to reduce the risk of its electric facilities initiating a wildland fire.

Changes include:

1. Pole testing and inspection

- a. In Tooele County, inspected 30 miles of 3-phase overhead line and determined 30 poles needed to be replaced due to aging and deterioration. Poles were replaced with engineered raptor construction.
- b. In Millard County inspected 20 miles of 3-phase overhead line and determined 5 poles needed to be replaced due to aging and deterioration. Poles were replaced with engineered raptor construction.

2. System Hardening

- a. 25 KV BIL (Basic Insulation Level) to 34.5 BIL (Basic Insulation Level) New insulators, anchors, and guys to meet MWP's new engineering construction standards.
 - i. Basic insulation level is defined as Insulation levels in electrical equipment characterized by the withstand voltages used during the design tests. There are two basic classifications of insulation strength: **basic insulation level** (BIL) or lightning-impulse withstand voltage, and power-frequency withstand voltage (often called “hipot” voltage).
- b. New insulators with higher hydrophobicity properties and fiberglass arms to reduce tracking and arcing in Juab and Millard Counties as needed.
- c. Replaced 3 mid-point reclosers located in Nevada that feed associated equipment in Utah. Upgraded current engineering standards on new poles and equipment in Millard County, Utah

3. Operational Practices:

- a. Description of procedures for de-energizing power lines and disabling reclosers to mitigate potential wildland fires, taking into consideration.

Changes include:

1. On July 8, 2020, an all-employee memo was distributed.

Effective immediately, through September 2020

In performing our due diligence in mitigating the potential for wildland fire and due to the current high risk of fire any line opened due to a protective device operating will be patrolled before re-energizing. Anytime there is knowledge of an operation on any reclosers attempts will be made to look over the area for potential hazards. Updated: 10-1-2020 **effective until further notice**. Updated 6-23-2021 With increased fire danger, we call attention to this memo as a reminder to continue the fire mitigation practices put into place effective July 8, 2020. This memo will be in effect until further notice. Updated 7-6-2023 With increased fire danger, we call attention to this memo as a reminder to continue the fire mitigation practices put into place effective July 8, 2023. This memo will be in effect until further notice.

4. Description of the procedures the electric cooperative intends to use to restore its electrical system in the event of a wildland fire.

No changes to this section