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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: December 5, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 23-032-01**, Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative Wildland and Fire Compliance Report.

Recommendation (Acknowledge)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Raft River Rural Electric Cooperatives (Raft River) November 6, 2023, filing as complying with Utah Code §54-24-203(4)(b).

Issue

On November 6, 2023, Raft River filed a copy of its annual Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP) Compliance Report (Compliance Report). On the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the filing for compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by December 6, 2023. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Action Request.

Division of Public Utilities

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Discussion

Utah Code §54-24-203(4) requires electric cooperatives to (a) file with the governing authority an annual report detailing the electric cooperative's compliance with the WFPP; and (b) file with the Commission a copy of the annual compliance report. The Compliance Report was reviewed and approved by the Raft River's Board of Directors at its October 25, 2023, meeting and was filed with the Commission on November 6, 2023. The Division has reviewed the filing and recommends the Commission acknowledge that Raft River has complied with Utah Code §54-24-203(4)(b).

The intent of the Compliance Report submitted by Raft River was to provide the commission with the following:¹

- An overview of operation and maintenance costs associated with the implementation of the plan for the past year.
- An overview of operational protocols as defined in the plan in an effort to mitigate fire risk.

Raft River is actively in communication with member owners in an effort to educate and inform them of all the measures that the co-op and members can take to mitigate wildland fire hazards. The co-op regularly schedules inspections and replaces poles where needed. It trims trees, cleans up hanging wires, and keeps equipment and personal items away from poles and transformers. The co-op implementation of the fire mitigation plan for Raft River has been instrumental in reducing and even eliminating fire hazards. At this time there are no modifications or changes needed for the plan.

Conclusion

Based on its review of the filing, the Division supports the filing and recommends the Commission acknowledge that Raft River has complied with the filing requirements for Utah Code § 54-24-203(4)(b).

cc: Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services

¹ 2023 Raft River Rural Electric Cooperative Wildland Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report, Page 1.