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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
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Justin Christensen, Utility Analyst

Date: March 15, 2023

Re: **Docket No. 23-035-04**, Rocky Mountain Power Major Event Report for January 1-3, 2023.

Recommendation (Approve)

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 January 1 through January 3, 2023. 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 February 13, 2023, RMP filed with the Commission its Major Event Report for the event that took place on January 1 through January 3, 2023, requesting that this event be excluded from its network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. On February 13, 2023, the Commission directed the Division to review the Company's application and determine if the event qualifies for exclusion under the 2.5 Beta method. On

Division of Public Utilities

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February 14, 2023, 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 March 15, 2023, and may submit reply comments on or before March 30, 2023. This memorandum represents the Division's comments and recommendations.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

A large heavy, wet snowstorm moved into Northern and Central Utah on January 1, 2023, and continued throughout January 3, 2023. The storm felled tree limbs on overhead lines, and damaged Company equipment. The storm caused customers in the intermountain region, Uintah basin, and other operating districts within Utah to experience outages that resulted in 15,224,331 customer minutes lost, with 32,334 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 319 employees and contractors were mobilized in the restoration efforts. The Company replaced approximately 2,533 feet of conductor, 12 distribution poles, 2 transformers, 247 insulators, along with other materials, and completed 515 line splices. During the restoration effort, approximately 31% of all customer outages were restored within 3 hours and 92% were restored within 24 hours. The restoration effort was impacted by the amount of snow accumulation and mud, 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 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 4.31 minutes, is correct. For this event, the Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 11.97 minutes. Based on the above discussion, the Division concludes that the 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, 11.97 minutes, exceeded the daily SAIDI value threshold limit of 4.31 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
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Alex Vaz, RMP
Michele Beck, OCS