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# UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

## Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE  
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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 Division Director  
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor  
Justin Christensen, Utility Analyst

**Date:** March 23, 2023

**Re:** **Docket No. 23-035-T05, TARIFF** Rocky Mountain Power's Proposed Changes to Schedule No. 3, Low Income Lifeline Program Residential Service Optional for Qualifying Customers.

## Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (DPU or Division) has reviewed the tariff filing and recommends the Public Service Commission (PSC or Commission) approve Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP or Company) proposed revisions to Schedule 3, Low Income Lifeline Program. The Company requests an effective date of April 15, 2023.

## Issue

On March 10, 2023, RMP filed with the Commission a Third Revision of Sheet No. 3.2 requesting modifications to the Tariff for the Low Income Lifeline Program. On March 10, 2023, the Commission issued an Action Request for the Division to investigate RMP's filing and make recommendations by March 24, 2023. The Commission also issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period on March 13, 2023, with comments due on or before March 27, 2023, and reply comments due on or before April 3, 2023. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Commission's Action Request.

Division of Public Utilities

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## **Discussion**

The purpose of the Company's filing is to propose changes to the Low Income Lifeline Program administered through Electric Service Schedule No. 3. The proposed changes come with the passing of Senate Bill 288 during the 2023 Utah Legislative Session. The result is the "Utility Bill Assistance Program" (Program) which will be administered by the Division. The filing proposes the following addition to Schedule 3:

*Temporary Supplemental Bill Assistance Credit:*

*\$12.00 Maximum*

*If a customer's remaining balance of Electric Service Charge plus the Surcharge Adjustment is less than \$12.00 after the Low Income Lifeline Credit and the \$10.00 Life Support Assistance Credit are applied, the Temporary Supplemental Bill Assistance Credit will be equal to the remaining Electric Service Charge plus the Surcharge Adjustment.*

*Credits provided under the Temporary Supplemental Bill Assistance Program are subject to the availability of program funds.*

The Division will administer the Program if funds are available. The Company will separately account for the credits and funds provided. The Company is required to report the Program's expenditures semi-annually to the Commission. The Company will add the required information to the existing semi-annual low income lifeline report that is filed at the end of January and July each year.

## **Conclusion**

The Company's Advice Letter for this matter complies with Utah Administrative Code R746-405-2(D), which requires a statement that the tariff sheets proposed do not constitute a violation of state law or Commission rule.

The Division concludes that the proposed tariff changes to Schedule 3 will not result in increased costs to the ratepayers. Therefore, the Utility Bill Assistance Program and tariff changes to Schedule 3 are in the public interest. The Division recommends the Commission

approve RMP's revised Tariff Schedule 3 filed on March 10, 2023, with an effective date of April 15, 2023, as requested.

cc: Joelle Steward, RMP  
Jana Saba, RMP  
Michele Beck, OCS