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UTAH DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Division of Public Utilities

MARGARET W. BUSSE
Executive Director

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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
Abdinasir Abdulle, Utility Technical Consultant Supervisor
Jonathan Lee, Utility Analyst

Date: July 12, 2024

Re: **Docket No. 24-022-01**, Bridger Valley Electric Association's Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

Recommendation (No Action Required)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) informs the Public Service Commission (Commission) that the Bridger Valley Electric Association's (Bridger Valley or Company) Board of Directors approved its April 2024 Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP), revision in its meeting on May 21, 2024.

Issue

Utah Code Section §54-24-203(3)(c) requires an electric cooperative's governing authority to approve its WFPP submitted under Subsection (3)(a) if the plan is (i) reasonable and in the interest of the electric cooperative member and (ii) appropriately balances costs of implementing the plan with the risk of a potential wildland fire.

On May 30, 2024, Bridger Valley filed its updated WFPP with the Commission, and on the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request for the Division to review the filing for

Division of Public Utilities

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compliance and make recommendations. The Commission asked the Division to report back by June 28, 2024, which the Division did with its recommendations.

On July 3, 2024, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to report back by August 2, 2024, whether Bridger Valley's Board of Directors approved the WFPP in its May 21, 2024, meeting. This memorandum is the Division's response to the Action Request.

Discussion

The Division contacted Bridger Valley to inquire whether its Board of Directors approved the WFPP in its May 21, 2024, meeting, and if so, to provide supporting documentation. Mr. Bob Larsen of Bridger Valley provided the minutes for the meeting (attachment #1). In the minutes, under item number 24 it is recorded as follows:

24. Operations Department—Mr. Larsen reported on the Operations Department.

The Board reviewed the Wildland Fire Protection Plan. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Wildland Fire Protection Plan—the Motion Carried.

Conclusion

Based on its review, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge that Bridger Valley's Board of Directors did approve its WFPP in its Board meeting on May 21, 2024.

cc: Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services
Bob Larsen, BVEA Operations Manager