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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
Bob Davis, Utility Technical Consultant

Date: April 4, 2025

Re: **Docket No. 25-035-11**, Request of Rocky Mountain Power for a Major Event Exclusion for a Vehicle Collision in Park City, Utah that Caused Utility Poles to Fall on January 18, 2025

Recommendation (Approval)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) approve Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP) Major Event Exclusion request for the vehicle collision event that took place on January 18, 2025 (Request).¹

Issue

On March 4, 2025, RMP filed its Request with the Commission. On March 4, 2025, the Commission asked the Division to review RMP's Request and make recommendations by April 3, 2025. On March 5, 2025, the Commission issued its Notice of Filing and Comment Period asking any interested person to submit comments by April 4, 2025.

Event Description and Restoration Effort

On January 18, 2025, a vehicle accident in Park City, Utah, caused three utility poles to fall obstructing a roadway with power lines and cutting off power to customers in the area. The event began on January 18, 2025, at 12:00 AM and ended on January 19, 2025 at 5:00 AM.

¹ Rocky Mountain Power's Major Event Report for January 18, 2025, Docket No. 25-035-11, March 4, 2025, [hereinafter Request], <https://pscdocs.utah.gov/electric/25docs/2503511/338537MirEvtRptJan1820253-4-2025.pdf>.



The impact of the accident resulted in 7,283 customer interruptions around the Park City area with 5,487,544 total customer minutes lost.²

RMP crews isolated the affected section and were able to restore power to most of those impacted customers. RMP reports that the absence of a tie between FP #161001 and FP #213930 related to a Fire High Consequence Area project, limited power restoration to all but 2-3 directly impacted customers. RMP used available crews from surrounding areas to repair the damaged equipment at the accident site. RMP reports that approximately 457 customers experienced a 16-hour outage as crews worked cautiously to avoid overloading the Silver Green Substation transformer.³

In addition to the customer impacts reported above, RMP reports that 14 workers, materials including 3 poles, 3 transformers, 4 insulators, 4 crossarms, 3 arrestors, and 4 cutouts were used to restore power to customers from this event. The total cost of the event was \$44,277.⁴

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). RMP is requesting to exclude outage information for this event from its network performance reporting and from customer guarantee failure payments.

Discussion

The Division concludes RMP's calculations are reasonable for the threshold that defines a major event under the IEEE 2.5 Beta method adopted by the Commission in 2005 that references Docket No. 98-2035-04.

Based on the data and information provided by RMP in its Exhibit A, Major Event Report Backup Calculation 3-4-2025, the Division analysis determined that the SAIDI minute threshold and customer minutes lost calculated by RMP are correct.⁵ For this event, the

² Request at 1 of 7.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Request at 3 of 7.

⁵ Request, *RMP Exhibit A -Major Event Report Backup Calculation 3-4-2025*.

Company calculated the daily SAIDI value for Utah to be 5.21 minutes, with 5,487,544 total customer minutes lost.⁶

Conclusion

This event exceeded the 2025 State SAIDI value threshold limit of 3.88 minutes, and the 4,084,972 total customer minutes lost.⁷ RMP's reporting is consistent with Utah Administrative Code R746-313. The restoration effort by RMP was adequate to restore power to its customers. The Division concludes that this event was a Major Event and should be excluded from the network performance reporting and customer guarantee failure payments. Therefore, the Division recommends the Commission approve RMP's Request for the event that took place on January 18, 2025.

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

⁶ Request at 1 of 7.

⁷ Request, *Major Event Declaration*, at 4 of 7. The 2025 annual threshold for Utah is 4,084,972 customer minutes lost (3.88 SAIDI minutes).