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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
Jeremy Hirschi, Utility Technical Consultant
Savannah Torman, Utility Analyst

Date: February 11, 2026

Re: **Docket No. 26-030-01**, Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc.'s Wildland Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report.

Recommendation (Acknowledge with Recommendation)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends that the Public Service Commission (Commission) acknowledge Moon Lake Electric Association, Inc.'s (MLEA) compliance report as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203(4)(b). The Division also recommends that MLEA provide additional information with future compliance filings.

In accordance with suggestions provided to other electric cooperatives, the Division recommends that MLEA consider:

1. Reporting on activities performed under the plan on a full 12-month calendar-year period to ensure comparability and usefulness of the report.
2. Submitting its annual compliance report for the previous year's activities to its governing board by June 1st.
3. Reporting the actual metrics (including performance metrics) and costs for the current year next to the planned goals and budgets from the approved plan to ensure accountability and transparency of implementation.



4. Reporting annual mitigation data and costs by category to ensure accountability, comparability, and transparency of the plan.

Issue

On January 22, 2026, MLEA filed a copy of its annual Wildland Fire Protection Plan 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 by February 23, 2026. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Action Request.

Discussion

MLEA is a non-profit rural electric distribution cooperative. Utah Code § 54-24-203(4) requires electric cooperatives to: (a) file with its governing authority an annual report detailing the electric cooperative's compliance with the wildland fire protection plan; and (b) file with the Commission a copy of the annual compliance report described in Subsection (4)(a).

MLEA submitted its 2025 Compliance Report¹ to its governing authority, which is its Board of Directors, on January 21, 2026. The Compliance Report was filed with the Commission on January 22, 2026.

The Compliance Report submitted by MLEA reported that it took the following mitigation actions between June 2024 and December 2025:

- MLEA inspected all its transmission lines in 2025.
- High risk areas are inspected yearly, and "many" distribution lines were inspected with a drone.
- MLEA contracted Sundance PPI to inspect 7,392 poles; 580 of these poles were identified as needing changed. Maintenance is in process.
- MLEA conducted pole testing in Rangely, Flaming Gorge, and Browns Park.

¹ The Compliance Report includes data from June 2024 to December 2025. The Division refers to the report as the 2025 Report for conciseness and clarity.

- MLEA identified “other poles” with the following issues: pulled anchors, floaters, broken or cracked arms, and bad insulators.
- MLEA rebuilt 16 miles of line.
- MLEA continued to replace older reclosers with electric reclosers and added communication capabilities to applicable devices, especially in high-risk areas.
- MLEA cleared vegetation along approximately 16 miles of distribution and transmission lines and employed independent contractors for additional problem areas.

Additionally, MLEA reports spending \$1,142,746 for pole inspections and replacements in Utah in 2025. MLEA also spent \$900,044 in 2025 to administer its Wildland Fire Protection Plan, with costs geared towards personnel, materials, equipment, pole replacements, vegetation management, among other necessary costs. Per MLEA’s report: “As a not-for-profit cooperative, MLEA is sensitive to expenses incurred by its members, but feel confident these investments will help make the system stronger and lessen the risk of fire.”²

Recommendations

The Division’s findings and recommendations are consistent with its recommendations in other electric cooperative dockets³ and are provided to standardize reporting recommendations across all electric cooperatives. The Division recommends that annual reports be completed on a full 12-month calendar-year basis, and that annual reports be submitted to electric cooperatives’ governing bodies by June 1st for the previous year. When applicable, the Division also recommends electric cooperative utilities include separate reporting metrics for expenditures related to fire mitigation and fire suppression, as the activities of each can differ.

The Division highlights that Utah Code § 54-24-203 is currently silent on an annual submission deadline for electric cooperatives. This stands in sharp contrast to investor-owned utilities, which are clearly required to submit their yearly reports to their governing authority by June 1st. There has been inconsistency in reporting from year to year and between electric cooperative reports. The Commission and the cooperatives may wish to

² Docket No. 26-030-01, MLEA Wildland Fire Protection Summary at 2.

³ Docket Nos. 25-025-01, 25-028-06, 25-032-01, 25-066-01; DPU Comments.

consider setting a date for electric cooperatives' cost and compliance reports. Establishing a submission deadline could eliminate ambiguity and ease review for all parties.

Conclusion

Based on its review of the filing, the Division recommends that the Commission acknowledge that MLEA has complied with the filing requirements for the 2025 Compliance Report under Utah Code § 54-24-203(4)(b). The Division also provides the following suggestions, which match those provided to other electric cooperatives:

1. MLEA should consider reporting on activities performed under the plan on a full 12-month calendar-year period to ensure comparability and usefulness of the report.
2. MLEA should consider submitting its annual compliance report to its governing authority for the previous year's compliance by June 1st. This could provide clarity and simplify its tasks and others' review.
3. MLEA's report on the actual metrics and costs for the current year next to the planned goals and budgets from the approved plan could help ensure accountability and transparency of implementation while increasing the value of its data.
4. If MLEA reports fire suppression costs, reporting them separately from mitigation costs can provide a fuller, more accurate picture of its activities and their effects.

cc: Curtis Miles, Operation Manager for MLEA
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services