



# UTAH

**Governor  
Spencer J. Cox**

**Lieutenant Governor  
Deidre M. Henderson**

Division of  
Public Utilities

Director,  
Chris Parker

## **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

McKenzie Cantlon, Utility Analyst

**Date:** October 28, 2026

**Re:** **Docket No. 26-031-05**, Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative 2026 Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

## **Recommendation (Acknowledge with Recommendation)**

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge Mt. Wheeler Power Cooperative's (Mt. Wheeler) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP or Plan) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203(1)-(3). The Division recommends the utility file an annual report for calendar year 2024 in accordance with paragraph (4) of the above Utah Statute.<sup>1</sup> The Division also provides the following recommendations for Mt. Wheeler to consider when compiling its future Wildland Fire Protection Plans: (1) the utility may want to add a section that specifically outlines planned mitigation efforts for each year of the plan; and (2) the utility may want to include forecasted expenditures for each year of the plan.

## **Issue**

On September 30, 2026, Mt. Wheeler filed its WFPP. On the same date, the Commission issued an Action Request to the Division asking the Division to review the filing for compliance and make

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<sup>1</sup> Utah Code § 54-24-203(4).

recommendations, with a due date of October 30, 2026. This memorandum is the Division's response to the Action Request.

## **Background**

Mt. Wheeler is a member-owned non-profit cooperative that provides power to portions of Tooele, Juab, and Millard counties, and areas in Nevada. Utah Code § 54-24-203(3) requires an electric cooperative to submit its WFPP to its governing authority on or before October 1 every third year after calendar year 2020. The WFPP was reviewed and approved by the utility's Board of Directors on September 8, 2026, and was filed with the Commission on September 30, 2026. The Division requested a copy of the Board's meeting minutes to confirm the Plan's approval, which is provided in DPU Exhibit 1.1.

## **Discussion**

The Company has outlined its WFPP for wildfire prevention, and the Division has reviewed the filing and determined that it contains a point-by-point discussion of the requirements outlined in Utah Code § 54-24-203(2). The Division's review of the WFPP included a comparison of the current WFPP to the WFPP that was filed in 2023.

The plan was consistent with the WFPP filed in 2023 with some updates. The 2026 plan iteration describes selectively evaluating placing distribution reclosers below 35kv on non-reclose settings during high-risk events. The utility also included information about its contractors, specifically engineering consultants and vegetation managers, who provide system-hardening expertise and conduct vegetation management. The utility additionally highlights its 10-year record of no lost-time accidents.<sup>2</sup>

The Division notes that the annual cost and compliance report for calendar year 2024 has not been filed as required by Utah Code § 54-24-203(4), which states:

*(4) An electric cooperative shall:*

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<sup>2</sup> Plan at 9.

*(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).*

As the statutory term for “annual compliance report” does not clarify the deadline of the required annual filing, the Division understands this to imply that reports are to be filed yearly. In accordance with the Commission Acknowledgement Letter in Docket No. 26-036-01, which addresses missing annual reports for a separate electric co-op, the Division recommends the Company submit an annual report for calendar year 2024 or file a statement saying that report is unavailable. Mt. Wheeler’s annual report for calendar year 2025 was filed under Docket No. 26-031-04.

## **Recommendations**

The Division recognizes the effort required to compile multi-year WFPPs, track plan progress, and ultimately ensure effective mitigation efforts. The Division recommends that the Company submit an annual report for calendar year 2024 to comply with the full requirements of section 203 of the WFPP statute. The Division also provides the following suggestions for Mt. Wheeler to consider which may aid in tracking plan progress and effective mitigation. Mt. Wheeler should consider delineating planned mitigation activities for each year in future WFPP filings. By separating planned activities by year, it may be helpful for the utility to track mitigation efforts more closely.

The Division also recommends that Mt. Wheeler include the estimated yearly cost of planned program activities. Like delineating program activities, providing a yearly forecast of costs may help Mt. Wheeler track spending more effectively.

## **Conclusion**

Based on its review, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge that Mt. Wheeler has complied with the requirements for Utah Code § 54-24-203(1)-(3). The Division recommends that the utility file its annual report for calendar year 2024. The Division also recommends that Mt.

Wheeler consider including the following items in future plans: (1) report on planned program activities for each year included in the WFPP; and (2) report on yearly forecasted costs for each year in the WFPP.

cc: Mitch McVicars, Mt. Wheeler Operations Manager  
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services