



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

Date: September 22, 2026

Re: **Docket No. 26-036-01**, Wells Rural Electric Company's Wildland Fire Protection Plan.

Recommendation (Acknowledge with Recommendation)

The Division of Public Utilities (Division) recommends the Public Service Commission of Utah (Commission) acknowledge Wells Rural Electric Company's (WREC) Wildland Fire Protection Plan (WFPP or Plan) as complying with Utah Code § 54-24-203(1)-(3). The Division recommends that the utility file annual reports for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 in accordance with paragraph (4) of the above Utah Statute.¹ The Division also provides the following recommendations for WREC 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; (2) the utility may want to include forecasted expenditures for each year of the plan.

Issue

On September 3, 2026, WREC 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

¹ Utah Code § 54-24-203 (4).

recommendations, with a due date of October 2, 2026. This memorandum represents the Division's response to the Action Request.

Background

Wells Rural Electric Company is a member-owned non-profit cooperative that provides power to large portions of Northeastern Nevada and Wendover, Utah. 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 WREC's Board of Directors on August 17, 2026, and was filed with the Commission on September 3, 2026.

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 2022. The 2026 WFPP includes the following Contents:

1. Situations Assessment and Awareness
2. Risk Assessment of Service Territory
3. Asset Inspection Plan
4. Vegetation Management Program
5. Proposed Modifications or Upgrades
6. De-energizing Power Lines
7. Restoration of Service
8. Consultation with local Fire Prevention Plans
9. Communication and Public Outreach
10. Emergency Response Planning
11. Overview and Wildland Fire planning efforts for the service areas

The plan was consistent with the WFPP filed in 2022 with some updates. The Company now uses information derived from the Watch Duty web app and Great Basin Coordination Center regarding fire prediction outlooks. In addition, the plan states "This assessment is intended to be a guide for

the future development of a WFPP by capturing the existing operations programs and recommending additional activities geared toward improving wildfire mitigation efforts.”²

Moreover, it includes recommendations from the Company’s Consultants on ways it can improve its plan. Recommendations are found at the end of each of the WFPP sections. The Division supports the consultants’ recommendations.

The Division notes that annual reports from 2023, 2024, and 2025 have not been filed as required by Utah Code § 54-24-203(4), which states:

(4) An electric cooperative shall:

(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. The Division recommends that the Company submit an annual report for each year from 2023, 2024, and 2025 to comply with the full requirements of section 203 of the WFPP statute.

Recommendations

The Division recognizes the effort required to compile multi-year WFPPs, track plan progress, and ultimately ensure effective mitigation efforts. The Division provides the following suggestions for WREC to consider which may aid in tracking plan progress and effective mitigation. The Division recommends that WREC 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.

² WREC Electric Association, Inc.’s Wildland Fire Protection Plan Compliance Report, Docket No. 26-030-01, at 6.

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

Conclusion

Based on its review, the Division recommends the Commission acknowledge that WREC has complied with the requirements for Utah Code § 54-24-203(1)-(3). In addition, the Division recommends that the utility file annual reports for years 2023, 2024, and 2025 in accordance Utah Statute.³ The Division also recommends that WREC 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: Ryan Brodsho, WREC Director of System Planning and Reliability
Michele Beck, Office of Consumer Services

³ Utah Code § 54-24-203 (4).