14-09015
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
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Staff Counsel Division
February 3, 2015

Breanne Potter, Assistant Commission Secretary
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA
1150 East William Street
Carson City, NV 89701

RE: Docket No. 14-09015

Dear Ms. Potter:

On September 22, 2014, the Regulatory Operations Staff of the Commission ("Staff") filed a Petition with the Commission requesting that the Commission issue an Order directing Nevada Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("NPC") and Sierra Pacific Power Company d/b/a NV Energy ("Sierra", collectively, "NV Energy") to file requested information with the Commission regarding the advanced metering infrastructure ("AMI"). On October 20, 2014, the Commission granted Staff’s Petition. On December 19, 2014, NV Energy filed ten volumes of information with the Commission in compliance with the Commission’s Order.

Staff has reviewed the information that was filed and has several follow-up requests for NV Energy. The follow-up requests are as follows:

1. Confirmation from NV Energy that each of the consumed meters did not send a high temperature alarm to the Regional Network Interface prior to being consumed.
2. NV Energy is currently implementing a pilot program for the High Temperature Detection Solution. NV Energy will provide a detailed description of the two temperature sensors that are contained within the Sensus Generation 3 meters, and an explanation of how the pilot program is being conducted, to monitor high temperature conditions via a software algorithm at the meter socket and within the meter electronics.
3. NV Energy will provide a description of the timeframe to implement the software upgrades needed to have all Sensus meters equipped with the High Temperature Detection Solution discussed above.

http://puc.nv.gov
4. NV Energy will review and provide an explanation of any trends that led to the 2% failure rate that has been experienced for the pilot program discussed above, and any mitigation to possibly lower the failure rate during the firmware process.

5. NV Energy will provide a clarification of the meter failure categories utilized in the NV Energize semi-annual reports filed with the Commission in Docket No. 10-02009.

6. NV Energy will review the 20 consumed meters labeled as indeterminate and reclassify the cause of those 20 consumed meters, if possible.

Staff has communicated these requests to NV Energy, and NV Energy will supplement its filing in this docket in response to Staff's questions.

In addition, Staff has directed NV Energy to retain Underwriters Laboratory to conduct independent third party testing of the meters it has installed. Underwriters Laboratory, an independent safety science company offering expertise related to product safety,¹ is one of the few companies in the United States approved to perform safety testing for the U.S. Occupational Safety Health Administration ("OSHA").² Underwriters Laboratory will test and verify that the meters comply with the Standard for Safety for Electric Utility Meters, UL2735. NV Energy has been directed to provide Underwriters Laboratory for testing the Sensus Generation 3 meters (with 2.07 version board), the Sensus Generation 3 meters (with 2.10 version board) and Landis+Gyr meters, as currently configured and in use in Nevada. The testing will also be conducted to include the high temperature algorithm discussed above for the two Sensus GEN 3 configurations. NV Energy will provide the Commission with the full and non-redacted results of the UL testing.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tammy Cordova
Staff Counsel

TC/tmr
Parties of Record

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¹ UL’s website provides the following description:
UL is a global independent safety science company with more than a century of expertise innovating safety solutions from the public adoption of electricity to new breakthroughs in sustainability, renewable energy and nanotechnology. Dedicated to promoting safe living and working environments, UL helps safeguard people, products and places in important ways, facilitating trade and providing peace of mind.

² OSHA maintains a list of approved testing laboratories, which are known as Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratories.