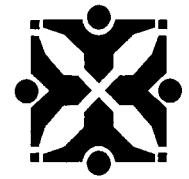


City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201



Agenda Item Number: REP 92-14
Department Source: Water & Light
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: October 6, 2014
Re: Electric Utility July 7th Storm Report

Documents Included With This Agenda Item

Council memo

Supporting documentation includes: None

Executive Summary

This report details Water & Lights response and the cost to restore electric service to the 14,000 customers that lost electric service from the July 7th 2014 Storm Event.

Discussion

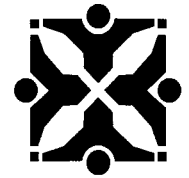
A widespread and notable severe weather event impacted Missouri on July 7-8 when thunderstorms developed in southwestern Iowa and southeastern Nebraska. These storms intensified into a line of severe thunderstorms that swept southeastward through Missouri. There were numerous reports across northern and central Missouri of 50-70 mph winds accompanying this squall line with many incidents of tree and property damage. Columbia, Missouri was particularly hard hit when localized microburst's approaching 80 mph, or higher, occurred over parts of the city.

This storm front hit Columbia at approximately 11:00pm on Monday July 7th 2014 and by 11:30pm one 69KV and twelve 13.8KV Columbia Water & Light circuits were out which resulted in 14,000 customers without power. At that time crews were called in and the restoration began. The primary goal of any restoration effort is to get service restored to as many customers on as soon as possible. In support of this goal, early hours of restoration were focused on line clearing and distribution switching. Due to the time of the storm event we were not able to assess the extent of the system damage until daylight had returned. By the following morning, we still had 7000 customers without power and the extent of the damage to our electric system had become clear.

The decision was made to request activation of our Mutual Aid Program was made that following Tuesday morning and the City Manager declared an emergency. For the first time since 1981 calls for outside help were made. That afternoon, crews from Fulton, Hannibal, Higginsville, Independence, Macon and contract crews from Par Electric were in route to assist Columbia Water & Light in their

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effort to restore electric service to our community.

Upon arrival, these outside crews worked alongside Water & Light crews in 16 hour shifts. On Wednesday and Thursday the restoration effort consisted of 137 personnel in the field with a support staff of 10 parts runners, 5 dispatchers, 5 crew guides and 8 assigned to food preparation. These two days were the most heavily staffed days where most of the damaged infrastructure was replaced.

During these hours electric service was being restored at an average rate of 200 services per hour.

By that Friday, July 11th, the electric outages had been reduced to fewer than 200 and a majority of the outside help was released. The restoration effort was completed with the last customer regaining electric service at 9:00am on Saturday July 12th.

Below is a summary of the cost to restore electric service to 14,000 customers that lost electric service from the July 7th 2014 Storm Event.

July 7th Wind Storm Costs	
Personnel - Regular Pay	\$281,071
Personnel – Overtime Pay	\$74,585
Inventory Materials	\$68,208
Transformers	\$20,707
Mutual Aid Contract	\$141,679
City Contractors	\$235,898
Total	\$822,151

Follow up meetings from this storm event still persist as we work through the lessons learned process to update, modify and make new plans for how we can better respond to the next event. The Columbia Water & Light Department has responded to many other communities' mutual aid request in the past. Establishment and participation in Mutual Aid Programs is an important show of support for our other Municipal Utility partners. At one of the breakfast meals a called in field worker was talking about some different Mutual Aid events they had responded and said "These are kind of fun parties to attend, you just don't want to host it". This time it was Columbia turn to host the party and we want to extend our appreciation for all that attended.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Financial impact provided by budgeted contingency funds.

Long-Term Impact: Financial impact provided by budgeted contingency funds.

Vision, Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Vision Impact: Not Applicable

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Strategic Plan Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impact: Not Applicable

Suggested Council Action

No Action Requested, Information Only

Legislative History

None


Department Approved


City Manager Approved