Date Submitted: August 28, 2026

CAE-038 Q:

Program Administrator Order No. 3 Compliance, August 3, 2026, Att. 2, pp. 54, 59. Explain why neither EDC called an active dispatch event during the Winter 2025/2026 peak hour. Further, explain the measures the EDCs will implement to ensure that active dispatch events are called, where appropriate, during future winter and summer daily and seasonal peak hours.

CAE-038 A:

United Illuminating received a storm notification on January 23, 2026, of an approaching winter storm with projection snowfall accumulations of up to twelve inches beginning Saturday, January 25, 2026, and tapering off early Monday morning on January 27, 2026. In anticipation of the potential reliability impacts associated with the storm, UI initiated preparations consistent with its emergency response procedures.

Section 6.9 of the ESS Program Manual states, "The EDCs will cancel events (Active or Passive) for the two (2) days preceding any predicted Emergency Restoration Plan level (level 1-5) outage events, leaving the customer to use the BESS as the customer deems appropriate." In accordance with this provision, UI did not schedule an active dispatch event during the Winter 2025/2026 peak hour, which took place on January 25, 2026, between 1:00 and 2:00pm.

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that participating customers retain full access to the stored energy in their battery energy storage systems when severe weather conditions may result in power outages. By preserving battery charge for customer backup power needs, the program prioritizes customer resilience and reliability during potential emergency events. Given the forecasted storm conditions and the possibility of outage-related impacts, UI decided not to schedule an active dispatch event on January 25, 2026, consistent with the requirements and intent of the ESS Program Manual.

Looking forward, UI will continue to evaluate system conditions, weather forecasts, and program requirements when determining whether to call active dispatch events during future winter and summer projected peak periods. UI will continue to utilize active dispatch events, where appropriate, to support program objectives and maximize customer and system benefits.