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State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Consumer Services

MICHELE BECK
Director

To: Public Service Commission

From: Office of Consumer Services
Michele Beck, Director
Gavin Mangelson, Utility Analyst

Date: September 10, 2014

Subject: Docket 12-035-77

In the Matter of: the Request for a Home Energy Report Pilot Program

Background

On September 2, 2014 Rocky Mountain Power Company (Company) filed with the Public Service Commission (Commission) a request for extension and expansion of the Home Energy Report pilot program (program). The Commission subsequently issued a Notice of Filing and Comment Period.

In preparation for this filing the Company had discussed potential proposals with the Demand-Side Management (DSM) Steering Committee. The Office is a member of the DSM Steering Committee and participated in discussions, and provided feedback and suggestions in advance of the Company's filing.

Discussion

The Office has reviewed the Company's filing and proposal and has found the program details are consistent with the expansion proposal that we supported during Steering Committee discussions.

The Home Energy Report pilot program has demonstrated itself to be a cost effective means of delivering energy savings to the Company's Utah service territory. The program's current structure and past performance have been detailed in the Company's Annual Demand-Side Management Energy Efficiency and Peak Load Reduction Report for 2013 starting on page 32 of the report, Docket 14-035-50.

Because of the program's success the Company has been exploring possibilities for a one time expansion. The Office agrees that the proposed expansion to 200,000 additional customers will provide additional energy savings while maintaining cost effectiveness.

The Company's proposed expansion also includes making the program's web portal -- which contains the same information about customer current and past usage that is on the reports -- available to the remaining residential customers who will not be part of the expansion. The availability of the web portal to customers who are not included in the program's mailed or emailed reports is an equitable means of providing such information to the broader residential customer group provided those customers are informed of the service. The Office is hopeful that the Company will work with the Steering Committee and have further discussions regarding how the availability of this service will be promoted to customers.

The Office notes that the Order in this docket given on May 15, 2012 contains a cap on program expenses of \$3.2 million, and that the Company's request for pilot expansion has not yet included a request for increase or elimination of the cap. As a matter of procedure the Office asserts that the Company must make this request of the Commission. It is our understanding that the Company intends to make a supplemental filing with a request for elimination of the cap on expenses.

Recommendations

The Office recommends that the Commission approve the extension and expansion of the Home Energy Report pilot program as long as the Company has filed the aforementioned supplemental request. If such a filing has not been made by the Company then the Office recommends that the Commission grant conditional approval of the extension and expansion contingent on an expeditious filing of such request.

Copies To: Rocky Mountain Power
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