

**In the Matter Of:**

In Re: Dominion Energy Utah Pass-Through

**HEARING, DOCKET NO. 19-057-04, 05, 06**

*March 20, 2019*

*Job Number: 533485*

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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Pass-Through Application	)	Docket Nos.
of Dominion Energy Utah	)	19-057-04
for an Adjustment in Rates	)	
and Charges for Natural	)	
Gas Service in Utah	)	
	)	
Application of Dominion	)	19-057-05
Energy Utah for an	)	
Adjustment to the Daily	)	
Transportation Imbalance	)	
Charge	)	
	)	
Application of Dominion	)	19-057-06
Energy Utah Company to	)	
Amortize the Conservation	)	
Enabling Tariff Balancing	)	HEARING
Account	)	

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March 20, 2019  
10:04 a.m.

Location: Public Service Commission  
160 East 300 South, 4th Floor  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
(801) 530-6769

Reporter: Teri Hansen Cronenwett  
Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter  
Job No. 533485

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Presiding Officer: Michael Hammer

For the Division of Patricia E. Schmid  
Public Utilities: Assistant Attorney General  
160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

For Questar Gas Jenniffer Nelson Clark  
Company: Senior Corporate Counsel  
333 South State Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145  
Jenniffer.Clark@Questar.com

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1 March 20, 2019

10:00 a.m.

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Good morning. This  
4 is the time and place noticed for a hearing in a three  
5 dockets, commission Docket Nos. 19-057-04 through 06.  
6 My name is Michael Hammer, and I am the commission's  
7 designated presiding officer for this hearing. Let's go  
8 ahead and take appearances, please.

9 MS. CLARK: This is Jenniffer. I am Jenniffer  
10 Clark. I'm counsel for the company, and I have with me  
11 Jessica Ipson. She will be the company's witness on the  
12 pass-through docket. That's 19-057-04. And I also have  
13 with me Mr. Austin Summers, who will be the witness for  
14 the company on the other two dockets.

15 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

16 MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia E.  
17 Schmid with the Attorney General's office representing  
18 the Division Of Public Utilities. With me as the  
19 division's witness is Douglas Wheelwright.

20 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. I think  
21 it probably makes sense, if there's no objection, to  
22 have Ms. Clark call both of her witnesses on direct  
23 before we proceed to Ms. Schmid. Are there any other  
24 preliminary matters before we get started?

25 MS. CLARK: There are not.

1 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. The  
2 witnesses can remain seated if you are comfortable with  
3 that.

4 MS. CLARK: And the company will call both  
5 Jessica Ipson and Austin Summers in that order.

6 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. Go head,  
7 Ms. Clark.

8 MS. CLARK: Would you like to swear them in?

9 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Yes, of course. So  
10 we're -- we're Ms. Ipson first. Ms. Ipson, do you swear  
11 to tell the truth?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes.

15 JESSICA IPSON,  
16 was called as a witness, and having been first duly  
17 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. CLARK:

20 **Q. So Ms. Ipson, would you please state your full**  
21 **name and business address for the record.**

22 A. My name is Jessica Ipson. My address is 333  
23 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

24 **Q. And what position do you hold with the**  
25 **company?**

1 A. I am a regulatory analyst 3.

2 Q. And was the application in Docket No.  
3 19-057-04 and the accompanying exhibits, DEU Exhibits  
4 1.1 through 1.11, were all of those things prepared by  
5 you or under your direction?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And do you have any corrections to any of  
8 those?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And do you adopt the contents of those  
11 documents here today as your testimony?

12 A. Yes.

13 MS. CLARK: The company would move for the  
14 admission of the application and the accompanying  
15 exhibits.

16 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: They are admitted.

17 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

18 Q. (By Ms. Clark) Would you please summarize the  
19 company's position in this application?

20 A. Yes. In pass-through Docket No. 19-057-04  
21 Dominion Energy Utah respectfully asks the Utah Public  
22 Service Commission for approval of 464,000 -- or I'm  
23 sorry, \$464,740,593 in Utah gas cost coverage. This  
24 represents an overall increase of \$13,227,000.

25 The components of this increase are, first, an

1 increase of \$17,480,018,000 in commodity costs, and  
2 second, a decrease of \$4,191,000 in supplier non-gas  
3 costs. This request includes an amortization of the  
4 commodity portion of the actual January 2019  
5 undercollected 191 balance of \$7,691,292 by a 6.922 cent  
6 per decatherm debit surcharge.

7 The company is also requesting an amortization  
8 of the undercollected SNG costs. The SNG balance is  
9 slightly undercollected from forecasted expected levels  
10 at the end of March by 42,440,017, which leads to a  
11 debit amortization. The charges are shown on Exhibit  
12 1.6, page 3.

13 The costs of purchased gas was developed using  
14 forecasted gas prices from both Pirate Energy Group and  
15 Cambridge Research -- Cambridge Energy Research  
16 Associates. If this application is approved, a typical  
17 Utah GS customer using 80 decatherms would see an  
18 increase of \$9.58 or a total annual increase of about  
19 1.58 percent.

20 These rates are just, reasonable, and in the  
21 public interest. Therefore, we request the rates  
22 proposed in commodity and SNG be allowed to go into  
23 effect on an interim basis on April 1st, 2019.

24 MS. CLARK: And the company has no further  
25 questions for Ms. Ipson.

1 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

2 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

3 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have any.

4 Thank you, Ms. Ipson.

5 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

6 MS. CLARK: Thank you. The company would call  
7 Mr. Austin Summers to speak to Docket No. 19-057-05,  
8 which is the transportation imbalance charge adjustments  
9 docket.

10 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Summers, do you  
11 swear to tell the truth?

12 THE WITNESS: Yes.

13 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

14 AUSTIN SUMMERS,  
15 was called as a witness, and having been first duly  
16 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. CLARK:

19 **Q. Could you please state your full name and**  
20 **business address for the record.**

21 A. Yes. It is Austin Summers, and my business  
22 address is 333 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

23 **Q. And what position do you hold with the**  
24 **company?**

25 A. I am the manager of regulation.



1           **Q.    And did you prepare or oversee the preparation**  
2           **of the application and accompanying Exhibits 1.1 through**  
3           **1.3 in this docket?**

4           A.    Yes.

5           **Q.    And do you have any corrections to any of**  
6           **those documents?**

7           A.    I have.  Sorry, we're just -- are we just  
8           working on --

9           **Q.    Just the transportation imbalance.**

10          A.    The 05?  So I have no changes to that one.

11          **Q.    And do you adopt the contents of those**  
12          **documents as your testimony today?**

13          A.    Yes.

14                MS. CLARK:  The company would move for the  
15                admission of the application in Docket No. 19-057-05 and  
16                the accompanying exhibits.

17                HEARING OFFICER HAMMER:  They are admitted.

18                MS. CLARK:  Thank you.

19          **Q.    (By Ms. Clark)  Mr. Summers, would you please**  
20          **summarize for the court or the commission the company's**  
21          **request for relief in this docket.**

22          A.    Yes.  In Docket No. 19-057-05 Dominion Energy  
23          Utah seeks to update the daily transportation imbalance  
24          charge using the historical data for the 12 months end  
25          of January 31st, 2019.  Based on this historical data,

1 the company is proposing to increase the rate slightly  
2 from 8.122 cents to 8.323 cents per decatherm.

3 The company believes that this rate increase  
4 is just, reasonable and in the public interest. And  
5 therefore, the company requests that the rates be  
6 approved on an interim basis with an effective date of  
7 April 1st of 2019, and that concludes my summary.

8 MS. CLARK: The company has no further  
9 questions for Mr. Summers. He is available for other  
10 questioning.

11 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

12 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

13 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: And I don't have any.  
14 Thank you.

15 MS. CLARK: Finally, the company would call  
16 Mr. Summers once again to testify to Docket No.  
17 19-057-06.

18 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right.

19 Mr. Summers, you are still under oath.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

21 **Q. (By Ms. Clark) Mr. Summers, I think we know**  
22 **who you are and what you do for the company. So I will**  
23 **ask you, did you prepare or oversee the preparation of**  
24 **the application and accompanying Exhibits 1.1 through**  
25 **1.4 in Docket No. 18 -- 19-057-06?**

1 A. Yes.

2 **Q. And do you have any corrections to any of**  
3 **those documents?**

4 A. I do have one -- I have one minor correction.  
5 It's on an exhibit. It's on Exhibit 1.2. Give  
6 everybody just a second to turn there. While you are  
7 turning to that, I'll point out that this doesn't have  
8 any effect on the rates that are calculated or anything  
9 that's in the application. It's just part of a footnote  
10 of sorts.

11 So if you are on Exhibit 1.2, which is  
12 calculation of proposed CET rates, under that first  
13 section, it looks like there's a footnote that reads,  
14 "The proposed rates were calculated by allocating the  
15 total CET balance of," and then it says 9,153,146.02.  
16 That number was a carryover from the prior CET  
17 application. So that number should read \$2,866,545.19.

18 Like I said, that doesn't have any effect on  
19 any of the calculations anywhere in the application or  
20 the rates that are proposed, just a clarification on  
21 that footnote.

22 **Q. Mr. Summers, with that correction, would you**  
23 **adopt the application and accompanying exhibits as your**  
24 **testimony today?**

25 A. Yes.

1 MS. CLARK: The company moves for the  
2 admission of the application in Docket 19-057-06 and the  
3 accompanying exhibits.

4 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: They are admitted.

5 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

6 Q. (By Ms. Clark) Mr. Summers, can you please  
7 summarize the relief the company seeks in this docket?

8 A. Yes. In this docket company is requesting to  
9 amortize the conservation enabling tariff balancing  
10 account. The amortization was adjusted last fall when  
11 the account was about 9 million dollars overcollected.  
12 Most of that 9 million dollars has been returned to  
13 customers during the heavy use winter months, so that  
14 rates can now be adjusted.

15 The company proposes to increase the  
16 amortization rate to eliminate the remaining  
17 overcollected balance of \$2,866,545. This credit  
18 amortization is simply a reduction in the amount being  
19 given back to customers and will result in an annual  
20 increase of \$5.11 for a typical customer or about a .84  
21 percent increase.

22 These proposed rates are just, reasonable and  
23 in the public interest, and therefore the company  
24 requests that the rates be approved with rates going  
25 into effect on November 1st, 2018.

1 MS. CLARK: The company has no further  
2 questions.

3 THE WITNESS: 2019, I apologize.

4 MS. CLARK: Thank you. The company has no  
5 further questions, and Mr. Summers is available for  
6 questioning from other parties or the commission.

7 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid.

8 MS. SCHMID: I have questions actually.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. SCHMID:

11 Q. Mr. Summers, could you please restate the  
12 proposed effective date. I think I missed that.

13 A. Oh, I think I said November, didn't I? The  
14 proposed effective date is April 1st of 2019.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 A. More carryovers from the last.

17 Q. In the company's application it discusses the  
18 effect of proposed changes on a typical GS residential  
19 customer using 80 decatherms per year. Could you please  
20 describe how the company has determined that this is a  
21 typical GS residential customer and that this is the  
22 typical GS residential customer's usage?

23 A. Yes. So the way that that typical customer is  
24 calculated or looked at is, it's based on -- I wouldn't  
25 say it's an average or a median. It's not an exact

1 calculation like that. But what the company will do is,  
2 we will look at what the average use is for a GS  
3 customer. But that average will change from year to  
4 year, month to month.

5 But for consistency in comparing one  
6 application to another, we don't change it every filing.  
7 We just change -- we will stick with 80, which it's  
8 close to, and we'll go with that for a while. And then  
9 once, once the usage drops enough that we can change it,  
10 we will change it to -- it might be 75. I know that  
11 that's something we are going to look at in our next  
12 general rate case.

13 But then we take that 80 decatherms, and we  
14 look at how a typical customer would use that gas  
15 from -- throughout the year. So in January they are  
16 using more gas. In the summer they are using less gas,  
17 and so that's how that typical customer is used.

18 So we, we are careful not to say an average GS  
19 customer using 80 decatherms. We just say it's a  
20 typical customer that uses 80 decatherms, and it allows  
21 us to have that comparison from filing to filing.

22 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. That was very  
23 helpful. Those are all my questions.

24 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Summers. Ms. Clark, anything else?

1 MS. CLARK: No, thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

3 MS. SCHMID: The division would like to call  
4 Mr. Douglas Wheelwright as its witness. May he please  
5 be sworn.

6 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Wheelwright, do  
7 you swear to tell the truth?

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

9 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

10 DOUGLAS D. WHEELWRIGHT,  
11 was called as a witness, and having been first duly  
12 sworn to tell the truth, testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. SCHMID:

15 Q. Good morning.

16 A. Good morning.

17 Q. Could you please state your name, title,  
18 employer and business address for the record?

19 A. My name is Douglas D. Wheelwright. I am a  
20 technical consultant with Division of Public Utilities.  
21 My address is 160 East 300 South in Salt Lake City.

22 Q. In connection with your employment at the  
23 division, did you prepare or cause to be prepared the  
24 division's action request response filed on March 15th,  
25 2019, in Dockets 19-057-04, 19-057-05 and 19-057-06?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to the  
3 division's action request response?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Do you adopt the content of the division's  
6 action request response as your testimony today?

7 A. Yes, I do.

8 Q. Do you have a summary?

9 A. Yes. In Docket No. 19-057-04, known as the  
10 191 pass-through application, it asks for commission  
11 approval for an increase of 17.4 million dollars in the  
12 commodity component and a 4.2 million dollar decrease in  
13 the supplier non-gas component of natural gas rates for  
14 a net increase of 13.2 million dollars.

15 The primary reason for the increase in the  
16 commodity cost is due to the removal of the credit  
17 amortization from the previous overcollected balance and  
18 the amortization of the current undercollected balance  
19 of 7.7 million dollars.

20 The decrease in the supplier non-gas portion  
21 of rates is related to a lower undercollected balance  
22 and the subsequent amortization.

23 For the test year ending March 31st, 2020, it  
24 is anticipated that approximately 56 percent of the  
25 total gas requirement will be satisfied from the Wexpro



1 cost of service production, and the remaining 44  
2 purchased through existing and future contracts, along  
3 with spot market purchase transactions.

4 If this docket is approved individually, a  
5 typical GS customer will see an increase in their annual  
6 bill of \$9.58 or an increase of 1.58 percent. The  
7 division recommends that the proposed rate be approved  
8 on an interim basis until a full audit of the 191  
9 account can be complete.

10 The division believes that the requested  
11 changes are in the public interest and recommend the  
12 rates be approved on an interim basis with an effective  
13 date of April 1st, 2019. That concludes my summary.

14 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. Mr. Wheelwright is  
15 now available to take questions.

16 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Clark?

17 MS. CLARK: We have no questions. Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you,

19 Mr. Wheelwright. Ms. Schmid, anything else?

20 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the  
21 division.

22 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: All right. Is there  
23 anything else before we adjourn?

24 THE WITNESS: We didn't do the other dockets.

25 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Oh. I thought your

1 testimony was light.

2 THE WITNESS: That was just for the first  
3 docket.

4 MS. SCHMID: Oh.

5 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Do you want to do --

6 MS. SCHMID: Pardon me. Yes, yes.

7 A. In Docket No. 19-057-05, the transportation  
8 imbalance charge, this was established to charge  
9 transportation customers for the supplier non-gas  
10 services that are being used on the company's natural  
11 gas distribution system and to approve the accuracy of  
12 transportation customers' nomination practices.

13 The calculation of this rate is based on a  
14 methodology approved in Docket No. 14-057-31 and is to  
15 be adjusted with each pass-through filing and in the  
16 next general rate case. The proposed change represents  
17 an increase from 8.122 cents per decatherm to 8.323  
18 cents per decatherm and is calculated based on the  
19 actual volumes of transportation customers for the 12  
20 months ending January 31st, 2019.

21 This rate applies to transportation customers  
22 that are taking service under the MTTTS and FT1 rate  
23 schedules, and any amount collected under the rate is  
24 credited to GS customers through the 191 account. This  
25 rate does not impact all transportation customers in the

1 same way and applies only if customers' daily  
2 nominations are outside of the plus or minus 5 percent  
3 daily tolerance limit. Transportation customers can  
4 minimize and possibly avoid this charge through accurate  
5 daily gas nominations.

6 The imbalance charge has been in place since  
7 February 2016, and it does appear that the nominations  
8 for many customers have become more accurate since this  
9 rate was imposed. The division believes the requested  
10 change is in the public interest and recommends the  
11 proposed rate be approved on an interim basis until the  
12 full audit can be completed of the 191 account.

13 **Q. (By Ms. Schmid) And do you have a summary of**  
14 **your comments on 19-057-06?**

15 A. Yes. Docket No. 19-057-06 known as the  
16 conservation enabling tariff asks for commission  
17 approval to amortize the January 2019 overcollected  
18 balance of 2.9 million dollars. The proposed rate  
19 represents a reduction in the credit amount that is  
20 currently included in customer rates.

21 The division has reviewed and supports the  
22 application and the calculations as submitted by the  
23 company. If this docket were approved independently, a  
24 typical GS customer will see an increase in their annual  
25 bill of \$5.11 or a .84 percent increase. The division

1 recommends that the proposed rates be approved with an  
2 effective date of April 1st, 2019.

3 In summary, the division supports and  
4 recommends approval of the rate changes requested in all  
5 three of the dockets discussed today. The division  
6 would recommend interim approval for the 191  
7 pass-through and the transportation imbalance charge  
8 dockets in order to allow additional time for the  
9 division to complete an audit of the individual entries  
10 in the respective accounts. The conservation enabling  
11 tariff does not need interim approval.

12 While each docket has been presented  
13 independently, the division has completed a summary of  
14 the combined impact of the proposed changes. With  
15 increases in both the pass-through and the CET, a  
16 typical GS customer will see a net increase of  
17 approximately \$14.67 per year or a 2.42 percent increase  
18 from the rates currently in effect. The division  
19 believes that the requested changes are in the public  
20 interest and represent just and reasonable rates. That  
21 concludes my summary.

22 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Wheelwright is available for  
23 questions concerning the 05 and the 06 docket.

24 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Clark, any  
25 questions regarding the later two dockets?

1 MS. CLARK: No questions. Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thanks. And

3 Ms. Schmid, nothing else?

4 MS. SCHMID: Nothing else.

5 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Is there  
6 anything else before we adjourn?

7 MS. CLARK: No. Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you, everyone.

9 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

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11 (The hearing concluded at 10:20 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E


STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Teri Hansen Cronenwett, Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were reported by me in Stenotype, and thereafter transcribed by computer under my supervision, and that a full, true, and correct transcription is set forth in the foregoing pages, numbered 3 through 21 inclusive.

I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties to said cause of action, and that I am not interested in the event thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 3rd day of April, 2019.

  
Teri Hansen Cronenwett, CRR, RMR  
License No. 91-109812-7801

My commission expires:  
January 19, 2023

<b>\$</b>	<b>06</b> 3:5 19:23	<b>160</b> 14:21	<b>2018</b> 11:25	<b>5</b>
<b>\$13,227,000</b> 5:24	<b>1</b>	<b>17.4</b> 15:11	<b>2019</b> 3:1 6:4, 23 8:25 9:7 12:3,14 14:25 16:13 17:20 18:17 19:2	<b>5</b> 18:2
<b>\$14.67</b> 19:17	<b>1.1</b> 5:4 8:2 9:24	<b>18</b> 9:25		<b>56</b> 15:24
<b>\$17,480,018,000</b> 6:1	<b>1.11</b> 5:4	<b>19-057-04</b> 3:5,12 5:3,20 14:25 15:9	<b>2020</b> 15:23	<b>6</b>
<b>\$2,866,545</b> 11:17	<b>1.2</b> 10:5,11	<b>19-057-05</b> 7:7 8:15,22 14:25 17:7	<b>3</b>	<b>6.922</b> 6:5
<b>\$2,866,545.19</b> 10:17	<b>1.3</b> 8:3		<b>3</b> 5:1 6:12	<b>7</b>
<b>\$4,191,000</b> 6:2	<b>1.4</b> 9:25	<b>19-057-06</b> 9:17,25 11:2 14:25 18:14, 15	<b>300</b> 2:4 14:21	<b>7</b> 2:16
<b>\$464,740,593</b> 5:23	<b>1.58</b> 6:19 16:6	<b>191</b> 6:5 15:10 16:8 17:24 18:12 19:6	<b>31st</b> 8:25 15:23 17:20	<b>7.7</b> 15:19
<b>\$5.11</b> 11:20 18:25	<b>1.6</b> 6:12	<b>1st</b> 6:23 9:7 11:25 12:14 16:13 19:2	<b>333</b> 4:22 7:22	<b>75</b> 13:10
<b>\$7,691,292</b> 6:5	<b>10:00</b> 3:1	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>\$9.58</b> 6:18 16:6	<b>10:20</b> 20:11		<b>4</b> 2:14	<b>8.122</b> 9:2 17:17
<b>0</b>	<b>12</b> 2:17 8:24 17:19		<b>4.2</b> 15:12	<b>8.323</b> 9:2 17:17
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	<b>14</b> 2:20	<b>2.9</b> 18:18	<b>44</b> 16:1	<b>84</b> 11:20 18:25
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